

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
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

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND**

**Friday, February 5, 2016
8:30 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2420
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

House Bill 2420 proposes to appropriate an unspecified amount of general revenues in Fiscal Year 2016-2017 for operating expenses and staffing costs of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD). **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent, but notes that this bill may be unnecessary as \$350,000 in general revenues was appropriated for the program for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 by SECTION 12 of Act 84, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015.**

The Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Program was established pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 180 and is administratively attached to the Department. The purpose of the program is to educate, construct, maintain, and assist in the development of conservation plans to protect soil and water resources. Each of the 16 SWCDs is governed by a five-member volunteer board. HACD is an umbrella organization formed by the 16 districts. Funding beyond State appropriations required for program operation, staffing and implementation of projects must be sought in the form of grants from other agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 9:19 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: warrenmcfb@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2420 on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM*

HB2420

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments:

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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Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Testimony on HB 2420

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

February 5, 2015. Room 325. 8:30 am

HCIA 2014-2016 Board of Directors

President

Kirby Kester

Vice President

Alan Takemoto

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Treasurer

Keith Horton

Directors At Large

Blaise Boyle

Cindy Goldstein

Adolph Helm

Steve Lupkes

Grant Manning

Shay Sunderland

Mark Stoutemyer

Immediate Past President

Mark Phillipson

Executive Director

Bennette Misalucha

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committees,

My name is Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA). HCIA is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization promoting agricultural bio tech to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy state economy.

HCIA strongly supports HB 2420.

We recognize the important role which the Hawaii Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts plays in maintaining the cultural and ecological balance of our environment.

As an entity charged with educating the public and maintaining conservation project and programs, we can anticipate this role growing as our State continues to accommodate the needs of our growing population.

With the work usually carried out by a committed volunteer group, there is a need for greater capacity.

We believe the sixteen districts that compose the Hawaii Association of Conservation need to be supported with adequate resources that will enable them to do their mission properly.

We humbly ask for the Committee's support of HB 2420.

Mahalo for your kind consideration. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

P.O. Box 126

Aiea, HI 96701

Tel: (808) 594-3611

director@hciaonline.com

admin@hciaonline.com

www.hciaonline.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 9:14 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: jkimof@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2420 on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM

HB2420

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
james Kimo Falconer	MauiGrown Coffee, Inc	Support	No

Comments: Please help further support the funding of our conservation districts and watershed protection. Mahalo Kimo Falconer President MauiGrown Coffee, Inc.

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 8:31 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: DAN.CLEGG@MONSANTO.COM
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2420 on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM

HB2420

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments: Aloha, I am the Vice Chair of the CMSWCD. Please support this bill. Our Conservation Specialists a critical to the success of a strong soil and water conservation program in Hawaii.

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Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

February 3, 2016

RE: State of Hawaii SB2990 & HB2420

Aloha mai kakou,

Funding the HACD budget is paramount to the Lihue field office on Kauai staying afloat. As the HACD employee in the office, I provide direct support to the Soil and Water Conservation Districts' county level conservation specialist and share the conservation planning workload as well as the education outreach responsibilities our office has to the community. The scope of the services and technical assistance both the HACD and district conservationist share is far too wide for just one individual to accomplish alone – so it is imperative that funding remain available for the HACD position.

Despite the small size of our rural island, Kauai has a large and very significant agricultural industry imbedded in the local culture; and the Lihue field office, along with the federal USDA entities, is one of the central hubs of the agricultural community regarding educational resources and implementation of effective and accountable conservation practices. Our local field office regularly generates about 24 conservation plans for the East & West SWCD board members to review each year.

In previous years when the Lihue office was fully staffed with district, state, and federal NRCS employees there were *six* employees working together with the SWCD board and directly with local agriculture producers on island. Currently, the Lihue field office has only *four* employees – 3 full time, and 1 part time. As it is the Lihue field office is stretched too thin in terms of manpower. Our office cannot afford to lose this HACD position in the future, otherwise it will not be able to provide the same level of services to the local farmers, ranchers, and foresters who need the assistance.

In this dependent island-economy that we face here in Hawaii, all of us experience the particular struggles of maintaining a viable and natural food source that can barely meet just a fraction of the population's needs. We must make agriculture and the programs that support local agriculture a top priority if we want to give our local food economy a fighting chance. Therefore I urge you to strongly consider the reverberating consequences that funding or defunding the HACD bill will have on the future of the islands prior to making a decision regarding this bill.

Mahalo,

Alex Wong

Conservation Specialist, HACD

(808)245-9014 ext. 109

alex.wong@hi.nacdnet.net



HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
H A C D

USING AVAILABLE TECHNICAL, FINANCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL
RESOURCES TO MEET THE CONSERVATION NEEDS OF HAWAII'S USERS.

P.O. Box 1411, Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Phone: (808) 214-5388

hacdhawaii@gmail.com; www.dlnr.hawaii.gov/swcd



February 5, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

TESTIMONY ON HB 2420:
RELATING TO HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Room 325

8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

I am Michelle Watkins, Executive Director of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD), which is made up of 16 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) across the state. With the first District organized in 1948, the SWCDs are mandated by HRS §180 and comprised of volunteer directors. Many of the SWCD directors are also farmers and ranchers. They have a great understanding of the various issues related to agriculture, land use, conservation and the importance of servicing our communities.

The Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts strongly support HB2420 and humbly ask for your support, to provide funding for staffing and operations of HACD.

HACD greatly appreciates the support provided by the legislature. HACD and our 16 SWCDs are a prime example of a successful partnership between the State, County, Federal and private partnerships. By assisting farmers and ranchers with technical support and in developing and processing conservation plans and addressing such issues as erosion, grading and grubbing, runoff and water quality in general, it benefits everyone. We also help to provide outreach and help educate our youth and the educators who teach them.

We are very thankful that Legislature approved funding last year, but had a mandatory reduction of 10% before the funding was released. In order to adjust to the budget cut, HACD had to reduce programs. In turn, this has imposed a hardship on our farmers and ranchers. One of the most successful ways of helping our farmers and ranchers is by providing conservation planning as a no fee service. This planning is provided by our Directors and our staff of Conservation Specialists. With a total of four Conservation Specialists, one on each of the major islands, and a backlog of conservation plans on all islands, we are looking to help secure and properly

compensate our Conservation Specialists. Not only do they help create conservation plans, but our Conservation Specialists play a key role in our Federal partnership with USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS). NRCS helps to provide our staffing with training, office space, equipment and also helps to provide technical assistance to the 16 SWCD boards. Through our partnership with NRCS, our Conservation Specialists are granted special access to a multitude of federally funded programs which help with a variety of needs such as implementation of conservation practices, planting materials and cost-share programs for our farmers and ranchers. A quarterly report that summarizes the activities of the each Conservation Specialist from October to December, 2015 is attached.

We feel that the funding that we are requesting will be a good investment for the State and as with all monies received by HACD and the SWCDs, will be leveraged with our Federal and County funds to help make the greatest impact. With all of our SWCD Directors being unpaid board members, we hope that the Legislature can see the value and importance that our program has made on our Island communities. We sincerely appreciate your time and consideration to our request and respectfully request your **support in passing HB 2420.**

Hawaii Association of Conservation District's
Conservation Specialist
Quarterly Status Reporting Form

Quarterly Status Reports are required in order to provide data and to meet requirements set forth within the Work Plan.

This Quarterly Status Report is for the period indicated below:

- January 1 – March 31, ____ (Due April 15th)
- April 1- June 30, ____ (Due July 15th)
- July 1 – September 30, ____ (Due October 15th)
- X October 1 – December 31, 2015 (Due January 15th)

Title: HACD Conservation Specialist

Location: Field Offices of the Soil & Water Conservation Districts on the island of:
Hawaii, Kauai, Oahu and Maui

Name, telephone number, and e-mail of person to be contacted for questions regarding this report:

Please refer to the cover page of each of the individual reports located within: Four Reports attached

Each of the reports will provide the following information for this reporting period:

- Progress/tasks started and/or completed during the **current** reporting period
- List of Main Practices used in Conservation Plans Completed
- List of Main Practices used in Conservation Plans Pending
- Conservation Practice Follow-ups
- List of Meetings, Trainings and Workplan related projects
- Progress Report on Conservation Planning and Technical Assistance
- SWCD Business
- Narrative Report on Training and Other Workplan related Projects
- Tasks or Projects to be completed in the next reporting period

Hawaii Association of Conservation District's
Conservation Specialist
Quarterly Status Reporting Form

Quarterly Status Reports are required in order to provide data and to meet requirements set forth within the Work Plan.

This Quarterly Status Report is for the period indicated below:

- January 1 – March 31, ____ (Due April 15th)
- April 1- June 30, ____ (Due July 15th)
- July 1 – September 30, ____ (Due October 15th)
- October 1 – December 31, 2015 (Due January 15th)

Title: Conservation Specialist,

Location: East & West Kauai Soil & Water Conservation Districts on the island of: Kauai

Quarterly Status Report Number: 1

Name, telephone number, and e-mail of person to be contacted for questions regarding this report:

Alex Wong, (808) 245-9014 ext. 109, alex.wong@hi.nacdnet.net

Please provide the following information for this reporting period. Additional sheets may be attached:

1. Progress/tasks started and/or completed as defined in the Contract's Scope of Services during **current** reporting period.

a) Summary of work completed (list all tasks and deliverables)

Conservation Plan				
#	<i>Date Signed</i>	<i>Total Acres</i>	<i>Ahupuaa</i>	<i>Main Practices</i>
1	12/18/2015	20.6	Kalaheo	Irrigation System, Microirrigation; Irrigation Water Management
2	12/18/2015	62	Weliweli	Brush Management; Prescribed Grazing
3	12/18/2015	4.3	Koloa	Tree/Shrub Establishment; Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
4	12/18/2015	4.3	Koloa	Tree/Shrub Establishment; Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
5	12/18/2015	87.2	Kalaheo	Brush Management; Fence; Forage and Biomass Planting; Heavy Use Area Protection; Livestock Pipeline; Prescribed Grazing; Pumping Plant; Silvopasture Establishment; Watering Facility
6	12/18/2015	41.4	Papaa & Mahaulepu	Mulching; Tree/Shrub Site Preparation;

				Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment; Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (Papaa) & Irrigation Pipeline; Irrigation System, Microirrigation; Irrigation Water Management (Mahaulepu)
7	12/18/2015	279.7	Wailua	Brush Management; Prescribed Grazing
8	12/18/2015	350.6	Haiku	Brush Management; Herbaceous Wee Control; Forage and Biomass Planting; Prescribed Grazing; Stream Crossing
9	12/18/2015	286.6	Wailua	Cover Crop; Tree/Shrub Establishment; Tree/Shrub Site Preparation; Woody Residue Treatment
10	12/18/2015	40	Kalapaki	Brush Management; Prescribed Grazing
11	12/18/2015	3.6	Anahola	Access Road
12	12/18/2015	11	Waikalua	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment; Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation
13	12/18/2015	9.6	Papaa	Forest Stand Improvement; Mulching; Tree/Shrub Pruning; Woody Residue Treatment
	<i>Grand Total (this Report)</i>	1200.9		
	<i>Grand Total (this Report + previous reports)</i>	1200.9		

* Pending Conservation Plans				
#	<i>Date Projected</i>	<i>Total Acres</i>	<i>Ahupuaa</i>	<i>Possible Practices</i>
1	4/15/2016	5	Papaa	Irrigation System, Microirrigation; Irrigation Water Management; Mulching; Wildlife Habitat; Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment; Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation
2	4/15/2016	16	Kalihiwai	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment; Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation
3	4/15/2016	14	Waipouli	Contour Farming; Contour Orchard; Riparian Forest Buffer; Riparian Herbaceous Cover;
4	4/15/2016	1.7	Kapaa	High Tunnel System; Tree/Shrub Establishment; Tree/Shrub Site Preparation; Woody Residue Treatment
5	4/15/2016	7.7	Waipouli	Forest Stand Improvement; Mulching; Tree/Shrub Pruning; Woody Residue Treatment
		44.4		

*pending: plans are due to be signed within the next quarter

Conservation Practice Follow-ups				
#	<i>Date Visited</i>	<i>Total Acres</i>	<i>Ahupuaa</i>	<i>Practice(s) Inspected</i>
1	11/5/2015	8.3	Pilaa	Irrigation system checkout
2	11/24/2015	0.9	Papaa	Mulch checkout

3	12/15/2015	188.4	Lawai	Hog panel fence checkout
4	12/18/2015	0.8	Moloaa	Access control (for Nene bird) checkout

Meetings, Training, Workplan-related Projects	
<i>Event/Deliverable</i>	<i>Date</i>
East Kauai SWCD meeting at Dept. of Health office.	10/14/2015
Kauai Conservation Alliance meeting regarding the ongoing Rapid Ohia Death/Ohia Wilt problem in Hawaii Island. Presentation on current research of symptoms, precautions, and quarantine and treatment methods given by J.B. Friday of CTARH at UH.	10/15/2015
Water Recognition Award Ceremony in front of Dept. of Water office.	10/20/2015
West Kauai SWCD meeting at NTBG.	10/20/2015
HACD Executive Board Meeting via teleconference.	10/28/2015
Circular/Fixed radius plot tree inventory training.	10/29/2015
East Kauai SWCD meeting at Dept. of Health office.	11/9/2015
West Kauai SWCD meeting at NTBG.	11/17/2015
Pasture condition and 100m transect plant inventory training.	11/16/2015
NRCS teleconference: SVAP (Stream Visual Assessment Protocol) training.	11/20/2015
NRCS teleconference: PIA Farm Bill Rollout FY2016.	11/24/2015
NRCS teleconference: Fence job sheets, High Tunnel Systems training.	12/3/2015
East Kauai SWCD meeting at USDA conference room.	12/14/2015
West Kauai SWCD meeting at NTBG.	12/15/2015

b) Narrative Progress Report (Please include photos):

Conservation Planning & Technical Assistance

Upon joining the Lihue NRCS SWCD office, I was immediately able to offer my GPS and GIS skills and knowledge in the field. Despite not having computer access, I filled a niche that was previously not occupied by a designated employee. My experience with Garmin technology and photography documentation in the context of archaeology helped me take on those cooperative responsibilities during SWCD or NRCS site visits.



Recording a GPS point to cite the over-used trough and highly eroded pasture location. Sparse groundcover, overgrazing, and consistent animal traffic have caused gullies to form in the soil.

Since my first week on the job, I have been joining the other conservation planners in the Lihue office on site visits around the island. Some of these farmers and ranchers were gearing towards applying for contracts with NRCS Programs while others only wanted the Conservation Technical Assistance as a means for obtaining the Agricultural Exemption for grading or grubbing. Over the span of my first few months in the office, I got to experience the various stages of conservation planning through the many burgeoning and ongoing contracts and practices our producers were applying.

By the end of December, I was participating in the full swing of conservation planning. Morri-Ann Nagata, our veteran soil conservationist, was moving to the Aiea office on Oahu during the Christmas holiday and I needed to learn as much from her as possible before she exited Lihue. One of her duties in our office was generating HEL reports for crop producers, a responsibility I took over back in October. Since GIS and cartography is my forte, I picked up Toolkit quite easily. As the NRCS programs applications came in for contracts, I created the conservation planning maps and soils reports required for the respective consplan folders. Consplan maps include: Hydrography, Wetlands, Soils, Precipitation and Elevation, and Threatened and Endangered species.

Due to the fact that our office is understaffed (even more so since the departure of Morri-Ann) it was necessary that I became a quick study in the areas of conservation planning. After only two months of shadowing my fellow coworkers, I began going out to the field on site visits alone to collect data. Based on the technical strengths of the two other conservation planners left in our Lihue office, I have decided to focus on specializing in grazing and irrigation systems in order to fill those voids. My goal this year is to learn more about the science of ranching in Hawaii, and the application of related conservation practices to mitigate common problems. I also plan on learning more about the design and implementation of irrigation and pump systems for agricultural purposes so that I can provide technical expertise for the local producers that decide to utilize them for crop or cattle.

District Business

On October 13, 2015 Jenni and I visited Eleele Elementary to give a short 15 minute presentation about “Local Heroes: Your Hardworking Pollinators” to a cafeteria full of fourth graders in hopes of inspiring them to create some awesome poster submissions for our annual contest. The students were eager to participate in our presentation and offer their knowledge and experiences regarding pollinators, and I was pleasantly surprised with the amount of facts they contributed.



1st Place : Judah Benjamin Plunkett
Kauai Christian Academy
Grade K
Mrs. Snyder



1st Place : Keola Lee Kahalekomo
Ele`ele Elementary School
Grade 2
Mrs. Miyazaki

Poster submissions were received the first week of November. Kauai had a total of 110 posters from 8 classes representing 4 different schools across the island.

On November 17th, we held the annual poster contest judging at the West Kauai SWCD meeting where the first and second place awardees were chosen for each grade level bracket: kindergarten-first; second-third; and fourth-sixth grades. This year’s first place winners were Judah Benjamin Plunkett (kindergartener from Kauai Christian

Academy), Keola Lee Kahalekomo (second grader from Eleele School), and Emily Grace Hartshorn (fifth grader from Kauai Christian Academy). These students’ posters were mailed to Greenfield, Indiana for the National Association of Conservation Districts poster contest.



2nd Place : Maria Keanna Lei Carinio
Ele`ele Elementary School
Grade 2
Mrs. Majewski



1st Place : Emily Grace Hartshorn
Kauai Christian Academy / Grade 5 / Mrs. Morales

The Monday after the Thanksgiving holiday, Jenni and I displayed all of the poster contest submissions at Kukui Grove Center in Lihue for the public to enjoy during the 2015 holiday season. The posters were strategically located at the outdoor food court area between McDonalds and Fun Factory arcade. Kukui Grove Center has once again expressed their appreciation of the children’s artwork and the positive feedback they have been receiving from local patrons shopping at the mall.



On November 7th, Jenna and I represented NRCS and East and West Kauai Soil and Water Conservation Districts at the annual Arbor Day event at Kukui Grove in Lihue. Hundreds of residents came out for the free tree giveaway sponsored by the Kauai Landscaping Industry Council and Garden Island Resource and Conservation and Development, Inc. This year 1,200 native and non-invasive species were handed out to participants who had to collect a minimum of 6 stamps from six different educational booths before they could take home their own free plant. My main objective was to talk story with whoever visited our booth about the various services and educational outreach activities SWCD and NRCS has to offer to private landowners and the community. I also handed out the pollinator coloring-book page that our office made for the keiki, and encouraged the families that came by our table to talk to their teachers about participating in the poster contest next year.

Jenni and I have discussed the lack of student interest in this year's CAP Contest. From what I have been told, the veteran teacher who led one of Kauai's most consistently successful schools recently retired, and the school was unfortunately unable to produce a competing team this year.

Despite the poor 2015 turnout, a few teachers have been in contact with us regarding preparation for next year's competition. Jenni and I are discussing the possibility of running a land judging scrimmage early next year to help the students and teachers get better acquainted with the formal rules and practices of the contest in preparation for the island-wide event held around October.

On November 20, 2015 Jenni and I traveled to Hilo for the state competition to help Kanoë Malani set up and run the Hamakua SWCD hosted event. Since neither Jenni or I have hosted the state level competition prior, our intentions of that trip were to gain the necessary experience to host successful local and state level contests on Kauai next year.



Students examine 1 of 3 sites at the 2015 annual state competition in Hilo.



All three state teams come together to pose for a picture to commemorate another year of the Conservation Awareness Contest in Hawaii.

(and then immediately tabled in the same breath) at the most recent HACD quarterly meeting, I have taken this as a sign of optimism in terms of the general consensus that this contest is outdated for the likes of today's high school students. Some changes need to be made at the state level if our Conservation District-sponsored competition is going to remain relevant and interesting enough to attract teacher and student participation.

The competition this year was hosted on the farm of Michael Crowell and Leslie Hill of *Wailea Agricultural Group* and the three high schools represented were Pahoa High School from Hawaii (1st place), Kamehameha Schools Maui (2nd place), and Leilehua High School from Oahu (3rd place).

The individual winners were Gernel Javier of Pahoa (1st), Konapilihi Dancil of KS Maui (2nd), and a three-way tie between Alana Kizanis and Mary Noble of Pahoa, and Zachary Luis of KS Maui (3rd). Pahoa High School has the opportunity to travel to Oklahoma City on May 3, 2016 and represent the state of Hawaii at the national contest.

Speaking from our perspective on Kauai, the high school turnout this year was very disappointing and I am afraid that educator and student interest will continue to wane because of our antiquated delivery of this competition.

Consequently, on December 9, I drafted an email to my SWCD counterparts across the Hawaiian Islands (as well as the NRCS staff that helped facilitate the state contest in Hilo, and our Kauai CTAHR contact Matt Stevenson) in hopes of not only keeping this discussion alive, but instigating some real steps towards our 21st Century revision. I understand that HACD and the SWCDs face many financial constraints at this point, but I believe we need to start setting the groundwork for this update otherwise the funds may never be set aside for this project if it has not already been made a priority in terms of progressive action.

By taking the initiative to collect some solid ideas and suggestions for the next guide update, my goal is to produce concrete results that demonstrate a genuine collective effort on the part of soil conservationists and conservation specialists in Hawaii to affect some real changes in this program going into the future. I want our organization to be able to create an opportunity for these students that generates a palpable interest in environmental science and local agriculture, since that is the fundamental purpose of our educational outreach.

Training & Other Workplan-related Projects

2. Description of any major issues/problems encountered and/or resolved that affect your ability to complete conservation plans as required (i.e., weather, personnel, equipment, etc.).

My official start date in the Lihue office was the 5th of October and I submitted the necessary forms and fingerprinting for the federal background check on October 7th. It reached the NRCS state office on October 9th, but I did not gain official computer access until November 19th and then access to the shared office drives was only granted to my account on November 30th. My e-Auth login was not set up until 12/2. And my direct phone line to my desk was not active until 12/3.

3. Description of any significant findings, results, or conclusions. If none, please indicate so.

None.

4. Tasks expected to be completed in the next reporting period

NRCS programs will hopefully be funded and practices can be installed by our clients/producers this year. I will be learning about the next phase of NRCS Programs and following up with our producers who received grant money to start their agricultural practices.

In terms of district business, Jenni asked me to take the lead with the local CAP Contest so I will start connecting with local teachers and conservation-related professionals that have worked with us on the competition in the past. My plan is to reach out to the University of Hawaii CTAHR station and discuss how we are going to approach the contest this year and how we are going to attract more high school participation and student interest.

Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts
ISLAND OF MAUI SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS' CONSERVATION SPECIALIST
 Quarterly Status Report Form

Name, Title: **JASON HEW, HACD – Maui SWCDs CS** (state funded position) Phone: **808-871-5500 ext. 113** Email: jason.hew@hi.nacdnet.net

This Quarterly Status Report is for the period indicated below:

Quarterly Status Report Number: _____

- January 1 – March 31, ____ (Due by April 5th)
- April 1- June 30, ____ (Due by July 5th)
- July 1 – September 30, ____ (Due by October 5th)
- October 1 – December 31, 2015 (Due by January 5th)

Work Plan Action Steps:

1. Assist in the development of Conservation Plans and in the implementation of conservation practices and BMPs.
2. Provide general technical assistance to SWCD Directors, District Cooperators, landowners and operators.
3. Assist SWCD Directors and Cooperators in communicating with government agencies.
4. Provide educational information about agriculture and the importance of Conservation Plans to the public.

• **Summary of work completed (list all tasks and deliverables)**

CONSERVATION PLANS						
#	Date Signed	Watershed	Main Practices	Amount (breakdown of practices by ft., yd., etc.)	Total Acres	Cost benefit based on NRCS programs cost list in dollar amount per practice
1	10/7/2015	Launiupoko	Access Road	3476 ft	12	\$8,133.84
			Composting Facility	1 no		\$19,895
			Fence	1895 ft		\$15,368.45
			Forage & Biomass Planting	5.3 ac		\$4,524.61
			Herbaceous Weed Control	5.3 ac		\$663.35
			Tree/Shrub Site Prep	0.6 ac		\$221.74
			Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	1829 ft		\$2,924.34
			Fence	1065 ft		\$7,199.40
			Herbaceous Weed Control	0.5 ac		\$52.15

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PENDING CONSERVATION PLANS - plans that are due to be signed with the next year							
#	Projected Date	Watershed	Possible Practices	Amount (breakdown of practices by ft., yd., etc.)	Total Acres	Cost Benefit based on NRCS programs cost list in dollar amount per practice	Comments
1	1/22/2016	Waiakoa	Access Road	200 feet	0.7	\$1,180	Technical assistance for agricultural tax purposes for unused portion of farm.
			Tree/Shrub Site Prep	0.7 ac		\$324.14	
			Tree/Shrub Establishment	0.7 ac		\$399.50	
			Mulching	0.7 ac		\$182.21	
2	6/30/2016	Wailea	Cover Crop	23.7 ac	52.4	\$5,509.54	Applying for EQIP once lease is renewed with landowner.
			Mulching	23.7 ac		\$27,529.92	
			Nutrient Management	23.7 ac		\$1,174.57	
3	1/6/2016	Maliko	Fence	740 feet	5.2	\$4,284.60	Technical assistance, wants to develop prescribed grazing management plan
			Prescribed Grazing	5.2 ac		\$236.34	
4	1/6/2016	Kailua Gulch	Brush Management	144.9 ac	144.9	\$64,525.42	Applying for EQIP to help the financial cost of rehabilitating the pasture.
			Herbaceous Weed Control	144.9 ac		\$14,159.63	
			Deep Tillage	144.9 ac		\$10,383.53	
			Fence	4971 feet		\$28,782.09	
			Forage and Biomass Planting	144.9 ac		\$123,701.13	
			Livestock Pipeline	3827 feet		N/A	
			Prescribed Grazing	144.9 ac		\$19,757.12	
			Heavy Use Area Protection	1200 sq. ft.		\$2,724	
			Watering Facility	4 no		N/A	
			Conservation Cover	0.6 ac		\$498.24	

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CONSERVATION PRACTICE FOLLOW-UPS					
Date Visited	Watershed	Total Acres	Practice(s) Inspected	Amount (breakdown of practices by ft., yd., etc.)	Comments
11/13/2015	Launiupoko	16.9	Vegetative Barrier	≈ 300 feet	Cooperator planted the first row of the Vegetative Barrier, and has the trench dug for the second row.
12/8/2015	Kalia linui	3.1	Grassed Waterway	≈700 feet	Inspected the progress of the Grassed Waterway installation
12/17/2015	Kalia linui	3.1	Grassed Waterway	≈700 feet	Showed Dan Clegg (Central Maui SWCD Vice Chair) the project
12/23/2015	Launiupoko	16.9	Vegetative Barrier	N/A	Nene are currently nesting in the areas that were to be implemented. On hold until the nene hatch and vacate the area.
			Herbaceous Wind Barrier	N/A	

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MEETINGS, TRAINING, MARKETING/OUTREACH, WORKPLAN-RELATED PROJECTS			
Date	Event/Deliverable	No. of Participants	Comments
10/1/2015	Baldwin HS CAP Training	7	Administered mock contest for Land Judging Contest
10/2/2015	Baldwin HS CAP Training	2	Administered mock contest for Land Judging Contest
10/5/2015	Kula site visit	4	First site visit with office engineer to look at resource concerns and objectives, and possible structural practices
10/6/2015	Makawao site visit	1	First site visit to look at resource concerns and possible fence locations
10/7/2015	Conservation Webinar	1	Emergency Animal Mortality Management- working with a producer that may encounter this issue
10/7/2015	West Maui SWCD board meeting	9	1 conservation plan signed, Met the new director, Discussed actions for cooperator that is very far behind schedule
10/9/2015	Beef Quality Assurance Workshop	30	Dr. Tim Richards lead a discussion about proper vaccination locations, vaccine handling, syringe handling, cattle & human health/safety

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- **Narrative Progress Report (include photos):**

I. Conservation Planning & Technical Assistance

This was a busy quarter for conservation planning partly due to the fact that the Fiscal Year 2016 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) first round sign up deadline was in October. New cooperators and cooperators that we have been working with throughout the year are applying to receive financial assistance through the Farm Bill program. Due to a lack of NRCS planners, conservation specialist from the districts assisted in the eligibility paperwork and planning process in order to service all of the applicants interested in the Farm Bill programs. Normal duties of a conservation specialist would include the same process for creating a conservation plan as creating a contract for EQIP. The added duties for a Farm Bill program would be gathering and processing eligibility paperwork that is not required for technical assistance and a conservation plan. There are also many more forms required during the planning process for a Farm Bill applicant. The reason for having to complete more forms is that the planner needs to justify the resource concern when there will be financial assistance involved.

II. District Business

The West Maui SWCD board had a meeting on October 7th. There was one conservation plan that got signed at the meeting. The plan is for a chicken farm that produces eggs. The predominant reason for contacting our office was because of the lack of available forage and soil erosion on their access roads. We also incorporated a composting facility practice as a way to dispose of birds that perish due to normal mortality. This cooperator will be applying for the EQIP Farm Bill for 2016.

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Figure 2: Students during the contest

This quarter the Maui SWCDs hosted the Conservation Awareness Program Land Judging Contest for high school students to participate in. There was a lot of preparation that was required to ensure the participants were well prepared for the contest, as well as setting up the contest site and the contest itself. Prior to the contest, Kylie Wong and I conducted a total of 10 training sessions and mock contests at 3 different high schools and for 1 home school. We tried to contact other high schools to train at but received no response. There was also one contest planning meeting and one train the trainer session.

It is my hopes that more high schools will utilize our assistance prior to the contest to help the students learn about the properties of soils, and understand the contest and how it works. It was apparent from the results after the contest that there were some students that did not quite understand how to correctly fill out the scoresheet. One training would have alleviated any of these issues and students would have scored higher.



Figure 1: Participants of the 2015 CAP Land Judging Contest

Top Team Scores			
1 st Place	591 Points	Kamehameha	Zachary Luis
			Konapiliahi Dancil
			Kylie-Ann Pastor
			Brenden Otani

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The contest was held on October 20th on the Hawaii Commercial & Sugar (HC&S) plantation. The site was selected, pits were dug, and each site was evaluated according to the contest scoresheet. This was completed by the HC&S field crew, the Maui SWCD conservation specialists, an NRCS soil conservationist, and a Cooperative Extension Service extension agent. On the day of the contest, the students gathered at the Cooperative Extension office and were then given directions to the contest site. Once the participants arrived on site, they were broken up into three groups and assigned a starting site. The contest consisted of 2 agricultural sites and 1 homesite for the students to judge. Once all groups judged all 3 sites the scores were tallied and the students ate lunch. Lunch was provided by the Maui SWCDs with beef donated by Buddy Nobriga of Nobriga's Ranch and ice cream donated by Roselani Ice Cream. After lunch the winners were announced. The results of the 2015 Maui CAP Land Judging Contest are as follows:

2nd Place	587 Points	St. Anthony	Micah Leval
			Mindy Montalvo
			Joshua Schwartzlow
			Rey Ramirez
3rd Place	573 Points	Home School	Emma Stoltzfus
			Isabele Werk
			Morgan Stoltzfus
			Issac Werk

Top Individual Scores			
1st Place	246 Points	St. Anthony	Micah Leval
2nd Place	231 Points	Kamehameha	Zachary Luis
3rd Place	197 Points	Home School	Emma Stoltzfus
4th Place	195 Points	Kamehameha	Konapiliahi Dancil

The Kamehameha team went on to the Statewide CAP Land Judging Contest on Hawaii Island and did very well. Konapiliahi Dancil placed 2nd individual, Zachary Luis placed 3rd individual, and Kamehameha Schools Maui placed second as a team.

There was a West Maui SWCD board meeting that took place on December 2nd. There were no conservation plans that got signed. One big issue that was brought up by Vice Chairman Pomaika'i, is the Rapid Ohia Death (ROD) that has been ravaging the Big Island's Ohia forests. The Ohia is the most integral part of most native forest ecosystems and without the Ohia, the native forests will collapse. His concerns are very legitimate and because of his position at Pu'u Kukui Watershed he feels very passionate about this disease. His concern is for the overall health of the watershed and its ability to recharge the aquifer. Little is known about the disease, and more importantly the plan of action if there is ROD

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discovered here on the island of Maui. ROD is now the focus of many conservation agencies and will be a huge part of our focus for outreach and education because of its serious implications to the islands.

There was an Olinda Kula SWCD board meeting that took place on December 11th. There was one conservation plan that got signed at the meeting. The plan is for a cooperators that wants to establish a native overstory for upland wildlife habitat and also as a canopy cover for his tea operation. The native species that are planted will hopefully provide food and shelter for wildlife known to frequent the area.

Conversation of the Upcountry Maui Watershed Project was a main discussion point, focusing on phases 6&7 and the Kealahou lateral that will be located under Kolohala Drive. Kolohala Drive is a privately owned road by 43 owners. The community members are against the installation of the lateral under their road unless certain conditions are met by the project. They are requesting that Kolohala drive be paved to Maui County standards after the lateral is installed. The current condition of the road is poor, with potholes and patches done by the community members. The OKSWCD board has requested that Brian Kau from the Department of Agriculture attend the next board meeting on January 22nd, 2016 to discuss the possibilities and options for completely repaving Kolohala drive after the Kealahou lateral is installed. Currently, the plan is to repave the section of road that is disturbed and nothing else, depending on available funds.

On December 10th, I met with Wes Nohara at the Lahainaluna Diversion for documentation and maintenance purposes. During one of Wes' annual inspections he discovered that there were dirt mounds that were built in the trough of the diversion. These dirt mounds, commonly called "whoops", are used by bicyclists as ramps for fun. These whoops were probably built by kids that have no idea about the importance of keeping the diversion clear of all obstacles. Wes wanted documentation of the obstacles and also of a portion of the berm that was damaged. After documenting the condition of the diversion, Wes and I began moving the dirt from the whoops to the damaged portion of the berm. The obstacles were removed and the berm was repaired with the available material. The work done by Wes and I was recorded and submitted to the responsible land owner.



Figure 4: Wes and Kylie in a trough discussing proper design



Figure 3: The reconstructed berm from the Lahainaluna Diversion

On December 16th, Wes Nohara, Kylie Wong and I conducted the annual inspection of the Lahaina Temporary Flood Control Project. The system consists of an earthen berm and trough and a series of sediment basins. The annual inspection was conducted last year around the same time, and since then there has been no maintenance to the system. One reason for the lack of

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maintenance is that there is no available funding to conduct regular maintenance. Another reason is that some of the damages to the system was made by Goodfellow Bros. while they were constructing the Lahaina Bypass and never fixed the damages. I know that Wes has been in contact with Goodfellow Bros. in an effort to coordinate a time that they can do the repairs. The biggest issue with getting Goodfellow Bros. to commit to the work is that their equipment is located at jobsites around the island and do not have equipment in the immediate area. There is still a large pile of gravel that Goodfellow Bros. will return for, but that time has not yet been decided. A report was compiled after the inspection that documents all of the necessary and recommended repairs that need to be done in order for the system to be properly functioning at its full capacity, and was submitted to the West Maui SWCD board members.

On December 17th Dan Clegg, Central Maui SWCD Vice Chair, accompanied Kylie and I to a cooperators property that has been receiving various complaints. The property is located within the Central Maui SWCD. The makai neighbor has been complaining to various entities since the project has begun. One complaint was directed towards the Central Maui District so Dan wanted to see what was happening on ground for a complaint to come in. We walked the property and gave Dan all of the background information of the project. After the site inspection, Dan was going to contact the neighbor that filed the original complaint. Dan called the complainant and left a voice mail message stating who he was and why he was calling. The complainant never returned Dan's call, so at this point we are waiting to see if the neighbor is still disgruntled by the project. There is a Central Maui SWCD board meeting scheduled for January 6th, and this matter will be discussed in greater detail among the board.

III. Training & Other Work Plan-related Projects

On October 9th, Kylie and I attended the Beef Quality Assurance Workshop that was led by Tim Richards, President of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Association, veterinarian and rancher. This three hour workshop covered topics including vaccination and vaccine handling, syringe hygiene, animal stress, injection sites and injection techniques. Haleakala Ranch hosted the workshop and provide a steer for injection demonstrations. Ten days prior to the workshop, ranchers injected different vaccines in different injection sites of the steer for the demonstration during the workshop. The purpose was to examine the steer 10 days after the injection to observe the effect of the vaccines within the animal's body. On the day of the workshop, Tim injected the steer with some dye so that the spread of the "vaccine" could be seen visually. The steer was put down and Tim proceeded to open the animal so participants could examine the injection sites and their effects. After examining approximately ten different injection sites, Tim led the discussion about proper vaccine handling and care, proper syringe handling and care, castration hygiene,

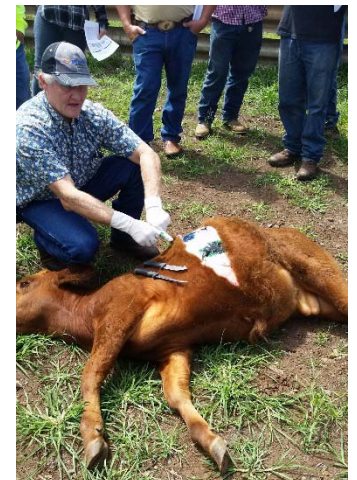


Figure 5: Tim Richards shows participants the injection sites within the steer. Dye can be seen from injections.

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dehorning an animal, animal stress involved during processing, proper injection techniques and injection sites and an update of the Hawaiian ranching herd health. One analogy that Tim made that I think is easy for ranchers and people to remember is that you should treat your vaccine like you would treat your beer. Always keep the vaccine in a functioning cooler with ice, especially Modified Live Vaccines (MLV) to ensure their effectiveness. This was a very useful and educational workshop for me to attend. Growing up on our relatively small family ranch we never vaccinated our herd, so this was a good experience to see the processing of cattle on a larger commercial ranch.

On October 13th and October 14th, the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) held an Ag Pro workshop. There were about 40 participants on the first day. Day 1 comprised of various lectures and power point presentations that revolved around different sectors of agriculture pertinent in Hawaii. Topics included: International year of soils- NRCS, climate change in Hawaii, cover crop calculator, biochar, soil carbon, updates in food safety, Korean natural farming, and a discussion panel with three local organic farmers. Most of the topics were research based and from masters students or doctoral candidates. I thought that the updates in food safety was one of the most applicable topics since every food producer will need to comply with the new rules set forth in the Food Safety Modernization Act. Day 2 of the Ag Pro Workshop entailed site visits to four different farms around Maui. The beginning of the day was slightly altered due to weather and access to the farm being too muddy. Kahana Stone of NRCS was supposed to conduct a soil clod demonstration, but did not due to the change in plans. The purpose is to show differences in soil properties due to different levels of organic matter. Depending on the reason for testing soil clods, you may have clods from a no-till field compared to a conventional till field, or from a conventional farm versus an organic farm. The demonstration would have shown two different soil clods placed into glass cylinders that were filled with water. The clod with more organic matter should stay intact for the most part, while the clod with little organic matter would slake rapidly and eventually dissipate completely. The water from the clod high in organic matter will stay relatively clear, while the other will become cloudy with sediment.

The first farm visit was to Vincent Mina's micro-green farm in the heart of Wailuku Town called Kahanu Aina Greens. Mina's farm is actually his backyard repurposed for micro-green production. The operation is very compact due to space limitations at approximately 2,000 square feet, but the amount of greens produced was amazing. The growing area was two screened rooms that housed the starters and the growing crops on elevated tables, with an automatic watering system. Another area contained the compost pile and worm farm that created the material for the substrate that the micro-greens were grown in. The last area was the refrigerated processing room where the micro-greens were washed, packaged, and stored in a separate refrigerator before delivery. The micro-greens that were produced at the farm included baby greens of sunflower, pea, radish, and wheatgrass, and supply hotels, restaurants, supermarkets, and health food stores on Maui and Oahu.



Figure 6: Micro-greens being grown at Kahanu Aina Greens in Wailuku

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Figure 7: Clark Hashimoto talking about their Persimmon Farm

The second farm visit was to the 3rd generation Hashimoto Persimmon Farm in Kula. The farm and operations is completely run by family members. The farm has recently began making value added products such as dried persimmons, a persimmon scone mix, and persimmon jelly to the family operation. Clark Hashimoto and his son Lance gave us a tour of the orchard and discussed problems and solutions that they face throughout the year. One discussion was about a rose beetle that has taken over a persimmon farm just down the street. Hashimoto said that they have not yet been affected like the neighbor, but there is some evidence of the beetle. The neighbor has set up lights that deter the beetles at night from the orchard. The Hashimotos said that setting up lights in that fashion would not be practical for their operation and a pesticide would be more economically viable. He also discussed the ungulate problems they have recently been dealing with, mostly axis deer. They constructed a fence along the road, and are in process of completing the perimeter. They described that the fence also kept out unwanted passerby from taking fruit since the orchard is adjacent to the road. Hashimoto showed us the different varieties of persimmon they have and how each is traditionally used. After the farm tour, Hashimoto offered us samples of their fruit, and sold products to those that wanted, even those flying back to Oahu.

The third farm visit was at the Maui's Winery vineyard operation located in Ulupalakua. There we met with wine maker Brett Miller. Brett discussed the vineyards history going back 40 years. Miller also discussed the challenges that they are facing now because of how particular the grapes are. After 40 years of farming, the soil health in the vineyard has declined over the years and Miller is now trying modern techniques to reinvigorate the soil's productivity. Miller discussed the use of cover crops between rows to help reintroduce nutrients back into the soil, while not outcompeting the vines. Throughout the vineyard is also a herd of goats that the workers rotate as a means of vegetation control and adding nutrients through manure back into the soil. After Miller and participants discussed the vineyards operations, there was a wine tasting to exhibit the final product of the vineyard. The connection between the cultivation of grapes to the taste and quality of wine is not something that an ordinary person thinks about, but Miller obviously takes both into consideration when making operational decisions.

After a lunch at the Ulupalakua Ranch Store, we continued to our last farm visit at the Kula Makai Farm. The Kula Makai Farm is an aeroponic farm that grows a variety greens. This is the first aeroponic farm or operation that I have seen. The operation is like hydroponics except that the roots of the plants do not sit in water, they are suspended in air and the nutrient rich water is sprayed constantly on the roots. The water is then recaptured and recycled into the system. The "beds" that the greens grow



Figure 8: Kula Makai Farm setup

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in are about 125-150feet long cement troughs lined with an impervious black liner to catch any unused water. The entire system is under a roof structure to help regulate the amount of heat and sunlight the plants receive. The Kula Makai Farm had just recently underwent inspection for compliance under the new Food Safety Modernization Act, and were found compliant. The produce is marketed towards hotels, restaurants, and supermarkets and is said to have a longer shelf life than other greens because the roots are still attached in the package. I really enjoyed this tour because it was the first of its kind that I have seen.

On December 3rd, I attended a Wiki training that was put on by the NRCS state office personnel. The first topic covered the new Fence conservation practice jobsheet and how to properly complete it. This was directed by Adam Reed, Water Quality Specialist. The second topic covered was a new vegetation inventory worksheet to be completed by planners during the conservation planning process. The new worksheet combines multiple older worksheets in one place and gives detailed descriptions of how the worksheet is to be used in the field. The new worksheet can be used under any kind of vegetative field condition, and is expected to be more efficient than past worksheets.

The Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC) held a presentation on December 11th to discuss the Rapid Ohia Death (ROD) disease that has ravaged Big Island Ohia trees. There were representatives from multiple conservation groups on Maui including, the Maui Soil & Water Conservation Districts, MISC, Department of Forestry- Fish and Wildlife, Department of Agriculture, East Maui Watershed Restoration Partnership, Leeward Haleakala Watershed Restoration Partnership, Auwahi Native Forest Restoration Project, The United States Geologic Service, Puu Kukui Watershed, the Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project, and the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. The turnout from multiple agencies should signify the importance of understanding this disease and how important it is to keep ROD from spreading not only to Maui, but to all other Hawaiian islands. The first topic was to inform participants of what exactly ROD is. ROD is a fungus called *Ceratocystis fimbriata* that causes the vascular system in Ohia to become blocked, obstructing the transport of water to the rest of the tree. Discussion of how the fungal spores are transported also occurred. The fungal spores were described as being “sticky” and cannot become airborne unless affixed to a particle that becomes airborne, such as on a dust particle. The spores can become affixed to anything that comes in contact with it, making transportation of Ohia products between islands the main vector of transportation. What to look for and signs of ROD were discussed and examples of what an infected specimen would look like were presented. The Department of Agriculture has already put in place an emergency rule that prohibits the transport or movement of any Ohia products (plants, stems, twigs, cuttings, wood, logs, mulch, greenwaste [except flowers, leaves and seeds], frass and soil) off of the island of Hawaii except by permit. This emergency rule will give researchers added time to try and figure out how to deal with this fungus before it infects other native forests. What was not accomplished at this meeting was to develop a plan of action if there is a suspect or confirmed specimen found on Maui. There will be meetings to develop the plan of action, but in the meantime points of contact were announced if there are any suspicious trees that are encountered. The phone number to call if a suspicious tree is found is the Department of Agriculture at (808) 872-3840. Upcoming events were also discussed because of the possibility of transport to other islands. Events discussed included the 4th of July Makawao Rodeo, the annual Merry Monarch Festival, and the upcoming

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International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress in September of 2016. These events will bring thousands of participants to and from the island of Hawaii, generating thousands of possible vectors for the fungus to spread. All of these event must take into consideration and assist in the prevention of the spread of ROD. The presentation put on by MISC was very informational and is these types of issues need to be discussed and brought to the attention of the general public if we are to collaboratively prevent the spread of diseases and disaster.

There was a total of 7 conservation webinars attended this quarter- Essential Principles for Conservation planning on Pastures, Emergency Animal Mortality Management: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, Using the SVAP2, Matching Appropriate Seed to Conservation Practices, Grazing System Designs for Non-Traditional Livestock, Cover Crops: Why Grow a Crop You Don't Sell?, and Crop Diversity Rotations and Systems for Soil Health. The opportunity to attend these webinars is crucial for the advancement of my knowledge, which will in turn benefit the agriculturalists that I serve.

A. Description of any major issues/problems encountered and/or resolved that may affect the Contractor's ability to complete the project as required (i.e., weather, personnel, equipment, etc.).

As discussed in previous quarterly reports, there is a cooperator in the Launiupoko area that is drastically behind schedule according to the conservation plan. Since the April 27th, 2015 site visit, three structures have begun construction on site. One structure is the main dwelling, another is a second dwelling, and another is a detached garage. There has also been very little done in terms of completing the conservation plan, one of the two vegetative barriers were installed since April 27th. This leaves me to believe that the cooperators priority is focused on the house construction rather than the conservation plan. The West Maui SWCD board wrote a letter to the cooperator informing them that the Vegetative Barrier and Herbaceous Wind Barrier practices must be implemented by the end of December, 2015 in order for the conservation plan to not be canceled. This is a concern for the cooperator because of the circumstances that the conservation plan was developed. The cooperator cleared the entire 15 acre property



Figure 9: Male Nene goose protecting the nesting female

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without a grading and grubbing permit and got reported to the county. The cooperater was told to pay the permit fee and fine, or get a conservation plan. The cooperater decided to create a conservation plan and has completed none of the practices since the plan was approved in February of 2013. I cannot tell if the cooperater is even interested in conservation or if he just wanted to avoid paying a fine to Maui County. During site visits and through conversations it seems that he is excited about conservation and agriculture, but then nothing gets done. I contacted to cooperater towards the end of the year because his deadline for practice installation was coming up. The cooperater informed me that there were two pairs of Nene geese that were now nesting in the area to be planted. I went out to the property to confirm the presence of the geese and they were present. Because the Nene are listed as endangered, I contacted the Department of Land and Natural Resources for consultation. The West Maui SWCD board needs to know an approximate timeframe that the Nene nest for, so that we can compose another letter to send to the cooperater giving them sufficient time to install the two conservation practices. After these two practices are completed, there is still the Conservation Cover and Tree/Shrub Establishment practices that need to be implemented. There is currently no agriculture on the property and the Tree/Shrub Establishment is a planned orchard. It frustrates me because as a conservation specialist we are to be focused on agricultural producers with a legitimate resource concern, and not people that say they are going to eventually establish some fruit trees in order to avoid paying fines to Maui County.

There is another cooperater that is in the Launiupoko area that has an existing chicken farm for producing eggs and will be applying for the EQIP Farm Bill program. As far as the technical assistance goes everything is fine, but programmatically we may not be able to provide financial assistance. The reason for that is because chickens are not considered as “grazing” animals. I do understand that chickens only get about 30% of their diet from plants, but the way that chickens scratch and dig for bugs creates a legitimate resource concern. I was trying to develop a prescribed grazing management plan for the cooperater to improve the availability of forage, but none of the NRCS standards apply to chickens. This is an issue that I am sure a large chicken operation on the mainland has experienced, but I have not yet found any guidance for remediating the cooperaters resource concern while providing financial assistance.

A Central Maui SWCD cooperater has been implementing his conservation plan throughout this quarter and there has been a lot of issues involved during the implementation of the plan. This cooperater has been discussed in the previous quarterly report (7/1/15-9/30/15). Since the last quarterly report, there has been flashy storms associated with the active hurricane season this summer. Those storms caused a minor amount of erosion and the downslope neighbor was very concerned by this. The contractors Goodfellow Bros. immediately remediated the situation and established berms that would prevent any sediment from traveling to the neighbor’s property. Silt fences have been in place since the commencement of the project. Even after the minor erosion issue was dealt with, the neighbor has been persistent in every avenue possible to try and get the project stopped (I don’t actually know if the complainant’s objective is to get the project stopped, or to fine him, or something else). The Maui County Planning Department, Development Services Administration, the NRCS State Office, The Central Maui SWCD, and various other agencies have received complaints about the cooperaters project. All of the agencies contacted have told the

Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts
ISLAND OF MAUI SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS' CONSERVATION SPECIALIST
Quarterly Status Report Form

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complainant that the conservation plan is valid and there is no reason to obstruct the cooperator. I know that there was a meeting between the cooperator, both downslope neighbors, and a mediator on site that took place on Thursday, December 17th, 2015. Since that day, our office has not heard from the complainant and hopefully any concerns have been addressed. As I mentioned in the previous quarterly report, the original plan was lacking information for the cooperator, although an outside engineering company was consulted for designs. After the first complaint came in, our office has devoted ample time of design and site visits and meetings with contractors to ensure that the project is safe, and most importantly, keeps within the goal of soil conservation.

Unfortunately there were no prospects for a public outreach event this quarter. I believe that with the emergence of the Rapid Ohia Death, opportunities for public outreach and education should be utilized.

B. Description of any significant findings, results, or conclusions. If none, please indicate so.

No significant findings, results, or conclusions at this time.

C. Based on work plan action steps, describe tasks expected to be completed in the next reporting period.

I will continue to provide technical assistance to cooperators, landowners, operators and whoever requests our support. New conservation plans will be created for new cooperators and existing conservation plans will be developed as needed. Any conservation practice that is due within the next quarter will be checked for proper and complete implementation. Continued work with other government and private agencies to implement as many conservation practices as possible. Creating opportunities for public outreach and education rather than waiting for the Maui County Fair and AgFest. The County of Maui is now required to participate in the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program as mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency. The Maui SWCDs have been in contact with the County's office and will be assisting in the project as it is being implemented.

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 Quarterly Status Report Form

Name, Title: **KYLIE WONG – Maui SWCDs CS** (County funded position) Phone: **808-871-5500 ext. 111** Email: kylie.wong@hi.usda.gov

PENDING CONSERVATION PLANS - plans that are due to be signed with the next year							
#	Projected Date	Watershed	Possible Practices	Amount (breakdown of practices by ft., yd., etc.)	Total Acres	Cost Benefit based on NRCS programs cost list in dollar amount per practice	Comments
1	1/31/2016	Waiakoa	Cover Crop	6 ac	20	\$4,184.46	Cropland
			Mulching	6 ac		N/A	
			Conservation Crop Rotation	6 ac		\$3,020.22	
			Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	1 ac		\$26.35	
			Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	660 ft		N/A	
			Irrigation System, Microirrigation	4.5 ac		\$13,690.35	
			Irrigation Water Management	4.5 ac		\$360.09	
2	1/31/2016	Waiakoa	Cover Crop	0.7 ac	2.1	\$488.19	Cropland
			Mulching	0.7 ac		N/A	
			Conservation Crop Rotation	0.7 ac		\$503.37	
			Irrigation System, Microirrigation	0.7 ac		\$2,129.61	
			Irrigation Water Management	0.7 ac		\$56.01	
3	1/31/2016	Waiakoa	High Tunnel System	~2000 SF	2.1	N/A	Cropland
			Conservation Crop Rotation	1.7 ac		\$1,006.74	
			Cover Crop	1.7 ac			
			Critical Area Planting	1.7 ac		\$776.87	
			Mulching	1.7 ac		N/A	
4	1/31/2016	Waiakoa	Cover Crop	1.1 ac	2.1	\$767.15	Cropland
			Mulching	1.1 ac		N/A	
			Conservation Crop Rotation	1.1 ac		\$1,006.74	
			Irrigation System, Microirrigation	1.1 ac		\$3,346.53	
			Irrigation Water Management	1.1 ac		\$88.02	

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#	Projected Date	Watershed	Possible Practices	Amount (breakdown of practices by ft., yd., etc.)	Total Acres	Cost Benefit based on NRCS programs cost list in dollar amount per practice	Comments
5	1/31/2016	Kealii	Land Clearing	21.7 ac	28	\$27,472.20	Pasture
			Brush Management	21.7 ac		\$24,059.22	
			Herbaceous Weed Control	21.7 ac		\$5,164.60	
			Woody Residue Treatment	21.7 ac		\$8,389.00	
			Prescribed Grazing	21.7 ac		\$1,482.98	
6	1/31/2016	Kuiaha	Tree/Shrub Pruning	4.9 ac	4.9	\$6,737.50	Agroforestry
			Woody Residue Treatment	4.9 ac		\$1,403.10	
			Mulching	4.9 ac		\$13,866.48	
7	4/1/2016	Maliko	Cover Crop	4 ac	7	\$1,236.72	Cropland
			Mulching	4 ac		N/A	
			Conservation Crop Rotation	4 ac		\$753.84	
			Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	1 ac		\$478.95	
			Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	380 ft		N/A	

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#	Projected Date	Watershed	Possible Practices	Amount (breakdown of practices by ft., yd., etc.)	Total Acres	Cost Benefit based on NRCS programs cost list in dollar amount per practice	Comments
8	1/31/2016	Kuiaha	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	7 ac	14	\$16,006.34	Agroforestry
			Brush Management	7 ac		\$5,928.23	
			Herbaceous Weed Control	7 ac		\$530.67	
			Multi-Story Cropping	7 ac		N/A	
			Woody Residue Treatment	7 ac		\$5,176.64	
			Mulching	7 ac		N/A	
9	4/30/2016	Pisano	Land Clearing	5.5 ac	5.5 ac	\$10,163.29	Cropland
			Woody Residue Treatment	5.5 ac		\$11,136.18	
10	3/31/2016	Hanehoi	Prescribed Grazing	8 ac	8 ac	\$1,090.80	Pasture
			Brush Management	8 ac		\$1,586.64	
			Herbaceous Weed Control	8 ac		\$1,586.64	
11	6/1/2015	Wailea	Land Clearing	7 ac	7 ac	\$8,302.49	Pasture Associated Land
			Brush Management	7 ac		\$5,289.20	
			Herbaceous Weed Control	7 ac		\$570.01	
			Composting Facility	7 ac		N/A	
GRAND TOTAL					80.2	\$189,862.42	

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CONSERVATION PRACTICE FOLLOW-UPS					
Date Visited	Watershed	Total Acres	Practice(s) Inspected	Amount (breakdown of practices by ft., yd., etc.)	Comments
11/19/2015	Maliko	2	Forage and Biomass Planting	29	Grass growth improving
12/17/2015	Kalialinui	3	Grassed Waterway	700 ft	

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MEETINGS, TRAINING, MARKETING/OUTREACH, WORKPLAN-RELATED PROJECTS			
Date	Event/Deliverable	No. of Participants	Comments
10/1/2015	CAP Training	6	
10/2/2015	CAP Training	2	
10/7/2015	WMSWCD Meeting	9	
10/9/2015	Beef Quality Assurance Seminar	30	
10/13/2015-10/14/2015	SOAP CTAHR Ag Professional	30	
10/16/2015	Leeward Haleakala Watershed Partnership Meeting	20	
10/20/2015	CAP Contest	25	
10/28/2015	Staff Meeting	7	
11/10/2015	Business Plan Meeting	7	
11/16/2015	PIA Teleconference	6	
11/17/2015	Spot Check Field Visits	6	
11/19/2015	Farm Bill Programs Roll-Out Teleconference	PIA Wide	
11/24/2015	Farm Bill Programs Roll-Out Teleconference	PIA Wide	
12/2/2015	WMSWCD Meeting	10	
12/3/2015	Wiki Wednesday Training	7	High Tunnel System, Fence, Vegetation Inventory
12/9/2015	Meeting with CMSWCD Director	4	
12/11/2015	Rapid Ohia Death Meeting	50	Hosted by MISC
12/11/2015	OKSWCD Meeting	8	
12/15/2015	Staff Meeting	6	
12/16/2015	Lahaina Temporary Flood Control Inspection	3	

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- **Narrative Progress Report (include photos):**

- I. Conservation Planning & Technical Assistance

This quarter was heavily focused on conservation planning due to the NRCS 2016 Farm Bill Programs sign ups. The SWCD Conservation Specialists have been assisting applicants with eligibility and planning due to the fact that Kahului's NRCS office is understaffed. My work this quarter in conservation planning has been largely focused on planning and gathering necessary eligibility documents for clients interested in applying for Farm Bill programs.

I am currently working on 9 conservation plans that will be developed into Farm Bill program contracts for financial assistance. Aside from getting the proper paperwork filled

out and submitted, time was spent working on supporting documentation for the plans. This includes RUSLE determinations, vegetation inventories, cultural resource inventories, and threatened and endangered species documentation. Multiple site visits to clients' properties were required to complete these inventories, while also meeting to discuss conservation plans.

While I was not able to have any conservation plans signed and approved by the Boards, many of them are already completed. Due to the upcoming technical review of all EQIP

conservation plans by the NRCS State Office, I held off on obtaining Board approval. This is because the technical review may necessitate changes in the plans.

I am eager to move forward in the planning process with these applicants in order to help them address their resource concerns and helping them to potentially receive financial assistance. I believe that this round of planning has given me great experience, as I am working on plans for pasture, cropland, and forestry.

The Kahului Field Office also underwent a spot check. This is when practices that have been certified and reported for goals are selected for review. The spot checker reviews both the folder for documentation and conducts a site visit to verify that the conservation practice has been implemented to standards and specifications. Kori, the acting Area Resource Conservationist, came to Maui for two days to complete the spot checks. Two of my old plans were selected, and I was required



Figure 2. Photo of Haiku pasture taken while conducting vegetation inventory



Figure 1. Photo of agroforestry system taken while conducting vegetation inventory.

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to complete corrective actions by the end of the year. These corrective actions were to fix the CPA-52 Environmental Worksheets and Resource Concern Checklists.

II. District Business

There were a total of three district meetings this quarter—two West Maui, and one Olinda-Kula. The December West Maui meeting was the last meeting for Wes Nohara and Brian Hashiro. They are both retiring, and will no longer serve as associate directors. We thank them for volunteering years of service on the Board.

CAP student training continued into the beginning of this quarter, where we had two last training sessions. The contest was held on October 20th at HC&S. In order for the contest to run smoothly, there was quite a lot of preparation. This included picking the sites, meeting with the backhoe operator to dig the soil pits, and setting the conditions for the sites.

There were 25 students from five schools that participated this year. The Soil Seekers, a home school student group, placed third. This was exciting as this was their first time participating in the CAP contest. Kamehameha Schools placed first, and St. Anthony second.



Figure 3. Student participants at the 2015 CAP Contest

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The Conservation Specialists also joined Wes Nohara for the Lahaina Temporary Flood Control annual inspection. This inspection was especially important because it was Wes' last, so we will now be conducting the inspection. It was important to learn what maintenance needs to be done, and how structural integrity of the berms, troughs, and drainage ways can be improved. Grubbing of vegetation in diversion troughs, and repairing berms damaged from human activities were the main concerns. We also went to inspect access roads on the Kamehameha Schools Kuia lands, as there were reports of erosion issues. These access roads were put in by the State for fire protection, but were completed in a manner that did not account for drainage and erosion. The roads were cut straight up and down, and have neglected the use of existing diversions to drain water into the gulches. There were large rills along the sides of the road, and many exposed rocks where soil had eroded away. Fixing these roads will be very expensive, but a collaborative effort between landowners and stakeholders will hopefully allow these concerns to be addressed.



Figure 4: Buffel grass and Opiuma trees in trough

III. Training & Other Work Plan-related Projects

A. Description of any major issues/problems encountered and/or resolved that may affect the Contractor's ability to complete the project as required (i.e., weather, personnel, equipment, etc.).

Excessive rain has been preventing many cooperators from implementing conservation practices. Other issues encountered have been with unhappy neighbors who have been attempting to derail projects, and nene geese nesting in planned practice installation areas. One cooperator has been having trouble finding consistent labor for black wattle removal in their pastures. Limited assistance from the Districts and NRCS has been a challenge for one cooperator who would like to receive financial assistance through the EQIP program. This is because they are raising pasture chickens. According to NRCS, chickens are not considered grazing animals. Therefore, the land use is not considered to be pasture. Many practices that would normally be applicable to help address resource concerns in pasture settings, cannot be used.

B. Description of any significant findings, results, or conclusions. If none, please indicate so.
None at this time.

C. Based on work plan action steps, describe tasks expected to be completed in the next reporting period.

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Over the next quarter, majority of the pending plans listed will be signed and approved. Most of the conservation plans are for applicants who are planning to apply for the NRCS EQIP program. Additionally, there are some conservation plans that are simply Conservation Technical Assistance plans for that should also be completed over the next reporting period. I have a few more vegetation inventories to complete for conservation plans as well. After the New Year, I plan to meet with most of my cooperators to further discuss their plans. This is because the deadlines are fast approaching in February for those interested in EQIP.

There are at least two District meetings planned for this coming quarter, where I will present conservation plans for approval. I will also be following up with all existing cooperators. The upcoming Olinda-Kula meeting will be to discuss the Kealahou Lateral of the Upcountry Water Line project with the Brian Kau of the Department of Agriculture.

Hawaii Association of Conservation District's
Conservation Specialist
Quarterly Status Reporting Form

Quarterly Status Reports are required in order to provide data and to meet requirements set forth within the Work Plan.

This Quarterly Status Report is for the period indicated below:

- January 1 – March 31, _____ (Due April 15th)
- April 1- June 30, _____ (Due July 15th)
- July 1 – September 30, 2015 (Due October 15th)
- October 1 – December 31, 2015 (Due January 15th)

Title: HACD Conservation Specialist,

Location: Soil & Water Conservation Districts on the island of: Oahu

Quarterly Status Report Number: Quarter 4

Name, telephone number, and e-mail of person to be contacted for questions regarding this report:

Jeana Cadby, (808) 541-2600 ext. 103, jeana.cadby@hi.nacdnet.net

Please provide the following information for this reporting period. Additional sheets may be attached:

1. Progress/tasks started and/or completed as defined in the Contract's Scope of Services during **current** reporting period.
 - Projects include:
 - Developing Honolulu County SWCD outreach materials for project/SWCD promotion
 - Completing City and County grant to rate completed conservation plans
 - NRCS assistance
 - Tasks include:
 - Assisting the development and implementation of conservation plans and conservation practices
 - Providing general technical assistance to SWCD board members and Cooperators
 - Website management and upkeep
 - New employee training
- a) Summary of work completed (list all tasks and deliverables)
 - Training new West Oahu SWCD employee
 - Training new ORCD employee
 - New "Partners" manual for outreach materials

Conservation Plan				
#	<i>Date Signed</i>	<i>Total Acres</i>	<i>Main Practices</i>	<i>Amount</i>
	<i>Grand Total (this Report)</i>	0 ac		
	<i>Grand Total (this Report + following reports)</i>	3245.9		

* Pending Conservation Plans				
#	<i>Date Projected</i>	<i>Total Acres</i>	<i>Possible Practices</i>	<i>Amount</i>
1	1/2016	11	<i>Irrigation Water Management</i>	
2	1/2016	1	<i>Brush Management</i>	
3	1/2016	162	<i>Prescribed Grazing</i>	
4	1/2016	5	<i>Grassed Waterway</i>	
5	1/2016	109	<i>Prescribed Grazing</i>	
6	1/2016	2.2	<i>Conservation Cover</i>	
7	1/2016	1	<i>Conservation Cover</i>	

*pending: plans are due to be signed within the next quarter

Technical Assistance/Mapping/ Non-Planning Contact				
#	Date of Contact	Total Acres	Provision	District
1	10/2015	105	Technical Assistance	West SWCD
2	10/2015	51.9	Technical Assistance	West SWCD
3	10/2015	162.8	Technical Assistance/Mapping	West SWCD
4	11/2015	105	Technical Assistance/Mapping	West SWCD/CREP
5	12/2015	100+ (3.1)	Technical Assistance	Windward SWCD
6	12/2015	100+	Mapping/Technical Assistance	West SWCD
7	11/2015	1	Technical Assistance/Mapping	Windward SWCD
8	11/2015	2	Technical Assistance/Mapping	Windward SWCD
9	10/2015	1.7	Technical Assistance	Windward SWCD
10	12/2015	10	Technical Assistance	West SWCD

Conservation Practice Follow-ups				
#	Date Visited	Total Acres	Practice(s) Inspected	Amount
1	10/12/15	51.9	Conservation Cover	1
2	11/4/15	105	Irrigation Water Management	45.9
3	11/3/15	162	Prescribed Grazing	25
4	10/1/15	6.6	Critical Area Planting, Irrigation Water Management	3.5
5	10/1/15	1,300	Cover Crop, Crop Rotation	301
6	10/12/15	384	Brush Management, Prescribed Grazing	384

Meetings, Training, Workplan-related Projects	
<i>Event/Deliverable</i>	<i>Date</i>
LCC Advisory Committee meeting	11/17/15
ORCD Meeting/Contract Panning	12/7/15
CRASH Night Waipahu HS/Outreach Recruitment	10/21/15
Online Planner Certification	Ongoing

b) Narrative Progress Report (Please include photos):

Conservation Planning & Technical Assistance

This quarter, due to a decision made by the NRCS field office, conservation plans were not to be created through the NRCS office. As an SWCD conservation specialist, planning responsibilities are prepared under the supervision of the NRCS field office, and without the support of NRCS, zero conservation plans could be brought to the SWCD meetings for approval.

Currently, Technical Assistance services are being provided to cooperators with valid conservation plans, as well as cooperators who are waiting for approval of a conservation plan.

An increased number of cooperators interested in prescribed grazing practices have come forward for conservation plans. This is exciting because these land managers tend to hold larger parcels of land, and use it less intensively than farmers. This has great potential impacts for conservation, and also provides an opportunity to work with CTAHR fire management strategies and other experts (Photo 1).

In addition, land managers who are interested in restoring historical lo-I have come forward requesting technical assistance. In the past, these managers were hesitant to work with the Districts, and them coming forward is a good sign for us (Photo 2).

Lastly, our work with private homestead-type land owners (1-5 acres on a home site) has been increased via word of mouth, and new home/land owners are stepping forward to get technical assistance and a conservation plan for a future farm. Many of these sites go right up to adjacent residential sites, so good planning is necessary to ensure that the neighbors do not face any issues as a result of living adjacent to a farming operation. We look forward to working with these land owners as well (Photo 3).

Some of the technical assistance requests have been becoming more complicated as issues regarding SWCD and DPP are sorted out. Questions regarding cooperator status with a group lease and license have come up, and it seems will need to be sorted out district-by-district. With increased communication between all three districts, hopefully the answers to these inquiries can be sorted out for a response. Until then, we have been patiently awaiting the meeting.



Photo 1- Eric of Kaala Farms points to the boundaries of the property.



Photo 2- Restored historic loi.



Photo 3- Some residential lots are adjacent to the future farming operations of “homestead” type cooperators

District Business

A tri-district meeting is in order to address the situation with the NRCS field office. Agenda items are likely to include the MOU for DPP, NRCS and any cooperators.

Training & Other Workplan-related Projects

2. Description of any major issues/problems encountered and/or resolved that affect your ability to complete conservation plans as required (i.e., weather, personnel, equipment, etc.).

The biggest issues that arose this quarter were in regards to the NRCS non-support situation described in “Conservation Planning and Technical Assistance”.

3. Description of any significant findings, results, or conclusions. If none, please indicate so.
All Districts operate under unique guidelines regarding planner certification and the association of qualified individuals that can present conservation plans for SWCD approval. Final NRCS planner certification is not possible due to a lack of a required training that needs to become available. I am currently missing only that certification.
4. Tasks expected to be completed in the next reporting period
Given the approval of the SWCD chairs, the conservation plans on hold should be available to be presented to the districts for approval.



HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
H A C D

USING AVAILABLE TECHNICAL, FINANCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL
RESOURCES TO MEET THE CONSERVATION NEEDS OF HAWAII'S USERS.

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hacdhawaii@gmail.com; www.dlnr.hawaii.gov/swcd



February 5, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

TESTIMONY ON HB 2420:
RELATING TO HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Room 325

8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

I am Dudley Kubo, Director on the South Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and representing the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD), which is made up of 16 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) across the state. With the first District organized in 1948, the SWCDs are mandated by HRS §180 and comprised of volunteer directors. Many of the SWCD directors are also farmers and ranchers. They have a great understanding of the various issues related to agriculture, land use, conservation and the importance of servicing our communities.

The Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts strongly support HB2420 and humbly ask for your support, to provide funding for staffing and operations of HACD.

HACD greatly appreciates the support provided by the legislature. HACD and our 16 SWCDs are a prime example of a successful partnership between the State, County, Federal and private partnerships. By assisting farmers and ranchers with technical support and in developing and processing conservation plans and addressing such issues as erosion, grading and grubbing, runoff and water quality in general, it benefits everyone. We also help to provide outreach and help educate our youth and the educators who teach them.

We are very thankful that Legislature approved funding last year, but had a mandatory reduction of 10% before the funding was released. In order to adjust to the budget cut, HACD had to reduce programs. In turn, this has imposed a hardship on our farmers and ranchers. One of the most successful ways of helping our farmers and ranchers is by providing conservation planning as a no fee service. This planning is provided by our Directors and our staff of Conservation Specialists. With a total of four Conservation Specialists, one on each of the major islands, and a backlog of conservation plans on all islands, we are looking to help secure and properly

compensate our Conservation Specialists. Not only do they help create conservation plans, but our Conservation Specialists play a key role in our Federal partnership with USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS). NRCS helps to provide our staffing with training, office space, equipment and also helps to provide technical assistance to the 16 SWCD boards. Through our partnership with NRCS, our Conservation Specialists are granted special access to a multitude of federally funded programs which help with a variety of needs such as implementation of conservation practices, planting materials and cost-share programs for our farmers and ranchers. A quarterly report that summarizes the activities of the each Conservation Specialist from October to December, 2015 is attached.

We feel that the funding that we are requesting will be a good investment for the State and as with all monies received by HACD and the SWCDs, will be leveraged with our Federal and County funds to help make the greatest impact. With all of our SWCD Directors being unpaid board members, we hope that the Legislature can see the value and importance that our program has made on our Island communities. We sincerely appreciate your time and consideration to our request and respectfully request your **support in passing HB 2420.**

Hawaii Association of Conservation District's
Conservation Specialist
Quarterly Status Reporting Form

Quarterly Status Reports are required in order to provide data and to meet requirements set forth within the Work Plan.

This Quarterly Status Report is for the period indicated below:

- January 1 – March 31, ____ (Due April 15th)
- April 1- June 30, ____ (Due July 15th)
- July 1 – September 30, ____ (Due October 15th)
- X October 1 – December 31, 2015 (Due January 15th)

Title: HACD Conservation Specialist

Location: Field Offices of the Soil & Water Conservation Districts on the island of:
Hawaii, Kauai, Oahu and Maui

Name, telephone number, and e-mail of person to be contacted for questions regarding this report:

Please refer to the cover page of each of the individual reports located within: Four Reports attached

Each of the reports will provide the following information for this reporting period:

- Progress/tasks started and/or completed during the **current** reporting period
- List of Main Practices used in Conservation Plans Completed
- List of Main Practices used in Conservation Plans Pending
- Conservation Practice Follow-ups
- List of Meetings, Trainings and Workplan related projects
- Progress Report on Conservation Planning and Technical Assistance
- SWCD Business
- Narrative Report on Training and Other Workplan related Projects
- Tasks or Projects to be completed in the next reporting period

Hawaii Association of Conservation District's
Conservation Specialist
Quarterly Status Reporting Form

Quarterly Status Reports are required in order to provide data and to meet requirements set forth within the Work Plan.

This Quarterly Status Report is for the period indicated below:

- January 1 – March 31, ____ (Due April 15th)
- April 1- June 30, ____ (Due July 15th)
- July 1 – September 30, ____ (Due October 15th)
- October 1 – December 31, 2015 (Due January 15th)

Title: Conservation Specialist,

Location: East & West Kauai Soil & Water Conservation Districts on the island of: Kauai

Quarterly Status Report Number: 1

Name, telephone number, and e-mail of person to be contacted for questions regarding this report:

Alex Wong, (808) 245-9014 ext. 109, alex.wong@hi.nacdnet.net

Please provide the following information for this reporting period. Additional sheets may be attached:

1. Progress/tasks started and/or completed as defined in the Contract's Scope of Services during **current** reporting period.

a) Summary of work completed (list all tasks and deliverables)

Conservation Plan				
#	<i>Date Signed</i>	<i>Total Acres</i>	<i>Ahupuaa</i>	<i>Main Practices</i>
1	12/18/2015	20.6	Kalaheo	Irrigation System, Microirrigation; Irrigation Water Management
2	12/18/2015	62	Weliweli	Brush Management; Prescribed Grazing
3	12/18/2015	4.3	Koloa	Tree/Shrub Establishment; Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
4	12/18/2015	4.3	Koloa	Tree/Shrub Establishment; Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
5	12/18/2015	87.2	Kalaheo	Brush Management; Fence; Forage and Biomass Planting; Heavy Use Area Protection; Livestock Pipeline; Prescribed Grazing; Pumping Plant; Silvopasture Establishment; Watering Facility
6	12/18/2015	41.4	Papaa & Mahaulepu	Mulching; Tree/Shrub Site Preparation;

				Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment; Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (Papaa) & Irrigation Pipeline; Irrigation System, Microirrigation; Irrigation Water Management (Mahaulepu)
7	12/18/2015	279.7	Wailua	Brush Management; Prescribed Grazing
8	12/18/2015	350.6	Haiku	Brush Management; Herbaceous Wee Control; Forage and Biomass Planting; Prescribed Grazing; Stream Crossing
9	12/18/2015	286.6	Wailua	Cover Crop; Tree/Shrub Establishment; Tree/Shrub Site Preparation; Woody Residue Treatment
10	12/18/2015	40	Kalapaki	Brush Management; Prescribed Grazing
11	12/18/2015	3.6	Anahola	Access Road
12	12/18/2015	11	Waikalua	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment; Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation
13	12/18/2015	9.6	Papaa	Forest Stand Improvement; Mulching; Tree/Shrub Pruning; Woody Residue Treatment
	<i>Grand Total (this Report)</i>	1200.9		
	<i>Grand Total (this Report + previous reports)</i>	1200.9		

* Pending Conservation Plans				
#	<i>Date Projected</i>	<i>Total Acres</i>	<i>Ahupuaa</i>	<i>Possible Practices</i>
1	4/15/2016	5	Papaa	Irrigation System, Microirrigation; Irrigation Water Management; Mulching; Wildlife Habitat; Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment; Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation
2	4/15/2016	16	Kalihiwai	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment; Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation
3	4/15/2016	14	Waipouli	Contour Farming; Contour Orchard; Riparian Forest Buffer; Riparian Herbaceous Cover;
4	4/15/2016	1.7	Kapaa	High Tunnel System; Tree/Shrub Establishment; Tree/Shrub Site Preparation; Woody Residue Treatment
5	4/15/2016	7.7	Waipouli	Forest Stand Improvement; Mulching; Tree/Shrub Pruning; Woody Residue Treatment
		44.4		

*pending: plans are due to be signed within the next quarter

Conservation Practice Follow-ups				
#	<i>Date Visited</i>	<i>Total Acres</i>	<i>Ahupuaa</i>	<i>Practice(s) Inspected</i>
1	11/5/2015	8.3	Pilaa	Irrigation system checkout
2	11/24/2015	0.9	Papaa	Mulch checkout

3	12/15/2015	188.4	Lawai	Hog panel fence checkout
4	12/18/2015	0.8	Moloaa	Access control (for Nene bird) checkout

Meetings, Training, Workplan-related Projects	
<i>Event/Deliverable</i>	<i>Date</i>
East Kauai SWCD meeting at Dept. of Health office.	10/14/2015
Kauai Conservation Alliance meeting regarding the ongoing Rapid Ohia Death/Ohia Wilt problem in Hawaii Island. Presentation on current research of symptoms, precautions, and quarantine and treatment methods given by J.B. Friday of CTARH at UH.	10/15/2015
Water Recognition Award Ceremony in front of Dept. of Water office.	10/20/2015
West Kauai SWCD meeting at NTBG.	10/20/2015
HACD Executive Board Meeting via teleconference.	10/28/2015
Circular/Fixed radius plot tree inventory training.	10/29/2015
East Kauai SWCD meeting at Dept. of Health office.	11/9/2015
West Kauai SWCD meeting at NTBG.	11/17/2015
Pasture condition and 100m transect plant inventory training.	11/16/2015
NRCS teleconference: SVAP (Stream Visual Assessment Protocol) training.	11/20/2015
NRCS teleconference: PIA Farm Bill Rollout FY2016.	11/24/2015
NRCS teleconference: Fence job sheets, High Tunnel Systems training.	12/3/2015
East Kauai SWCD meeting at USDA conference room.	12/14/2015
West Kauai SWCD meeting at NTBG.	12/15/2015

b) Narrative Progress Report (Please include photos):

Conservation Planning & Technical Assistance

Upon joining the Lihue NRCS SWCD office, I was immediately able to offer my GPS and GIS skills and knowledge in the field. Despite not having computer access, I filled a niche that was previously not occupied by a designated employee. My experience with Garmin technology and photography documentation in the context of archaeology helped me take on those cooperative responsibilities during SWCD or NRCS site visits.



Recording a GPS point to cite the over-used trough and highly eroded pasture location. Sparse groundcover, overgrazing, and consistent animal traffic have caused gullies to form in the soil.

Since my first week on the job, I have been joining the other conservation planners in the Lihue office on site visits around the island. Some of these farmers and ranchers were gearing towards applying for contracts with NRCS Programs while others only wanted the Conservation Technical Assistance as a means for obtaining the Agricultural Exemption for grading or grubbing. Over the span of my first few months in the office, I got to experience the various stages of conservation planning through the many burgeoning and ongoing contracts and practices our producers were applying.

By the end of December, I was participating in the full swing of conservation planning. Morri-Ann Nagata, our veteran soil conservationist, was moving to the Aiea office on Oahu during the Christmas holiday and I needed to learn as much from her as possible before she exited Lihue. One of her duties in our office was generating HEL reports for crop producers, a responsibility I took over back in October. Since GIS and cartography is my forte, I picked up Toolkit quite easily. As the NRCS programs applications came in for contracts, I created the conservation planning maps and soils reports required for the respective consplan folders. Consplan maps include: Hydrography, Wetlands, Soils, Precipitation and Elevation, and Threatened and Endangered species.

Due to the fact that our office is understaffed (even more so since the departure of Morri-Ann) it was necessary that I became a quick study in the areas of conservation planning. After only two months of shadowing my fellow coworkers, I began going out to the field on site visits alone to collect data. Based on the technical strengths of the two other conservation planners left in our Lihue office, I have decided to focus on specializing in grazing and irrigation systems in order to fill those voids. My goal this year is to learn more about the science of ranching in Hawaii, and the application of related conservation practices to mitigate common problems. I also plan on learning more about the design and implementation of irrigation and pump systems for agricultural purposes so that I can provide technical expertise for the local producers that decide to utilize them for crop or cattle.

District Business

On October 13, 2015 Jenni and I visited Eleele Elementary to give a short 15 minute presentation about “Local Heroes: Your Hardworking Pollinators” to a cafeteria full of fourth graders in hopes of inspiring them to create some awesome poster submissions for our annual contest. The students were eager to participate in our presentation and offer their knowledge and experiences regarding pollinators, and I was pleasantly surprised with the amount of facts they contributed.



1st Place : Judah Benjamin Plunkett
Kauai Christian Academy
Grade K
Mrs. Snyder



1st Place : Keola Lee Kahalekomo
Ele`ele Elementary School
Grade 2
Mrs. Miyazaki

Poster submissions were received the first week of November. Kauai had a total of 110 posters from 8 classes representing 4 different schools across the island.

On November 17th, we held the annual poster contest judging at the West Kauai SWCD meeting where the first and second place awardees were chosen for each grade level bracket: kindergarten-first; second-third; and fourth-sixth grades. This year’s first place winners were Judah Benjamin Plunkett (kindergartener from Kauai Christian

Academy), Keola Lee Kahalekomo (second grader from Eleele School), and Emily Grace Hartshorn (fifth grader from Kauai Christian Academy). These students’ posters were mailed to Greenfield, Indiana for the National Association of Conservation Districts poster contest.



2nd Place : Maria Keanna Lei Carinio
Ele`ele Elementary School
Grade 2
Mrs. Majewski



1st Place : Emily Grace Hartshorn
Kauai Christian Academy / Grade 5 / Mrs. Morales

The Monday after the Thanksgiving holiday, Jenni and I displayed all of the poster contest submissions at Kukui Grove Center in Lihue for the public to enjoy during the 2015 holiday season. The posters were strategically located at the outdoor food court area between McDonalds and Fun Factory arcade. Kukui Grove Center has once again expressed their appreciation of the children’s artwork and the positive feedback they have been receiving from local patrons shopping at the mall.



On November 7th, Jenna and I represented NRCS and East and West Kauai Soil and Water Conservation Districts at the annual Arbor Day event at Kukui Grove in Lihue. Hundreds of residents came out for the free tree giveaway sponsored by the Kauai Landscaping Industry Council and Garden Island Resource and Conservation and Development, Inc. This year 1,200 native and non-invasive species were handed out to participants who had to collect a minimum of 6 stamps from six different educational booths before they could take home their own free plant. My main objective was to talk story with whoever visited our booth about the various services and educational outreach activities SWCD and NRCS has to offer to private landowners and the community. I also handed out the pollinator coloring-book page that our office made for the keiki, and encouraged the families that came by our table to talk to their teachers about participating in the poster contest next year.

Jenni and I have discussed the lack of student interest in this year's CAP Contest. From what I have been told, the veteran teacher who led one of Kauai's most consistently successful schools recently retired, and the school was unfortunately unable to produce a competing team this year.

Despite the poor 2015 turnout, a few teachers have been in contact with us regarding preparation for next year's competition. Jenni and I are discussing the possibility of running a land judging scrimmage early next year to help the students and teachers get better acquainted with the formal rules and practices of the contest in preparation for the island-wide event held around October.

On November 20, 2015 Jenni and I traveled to Hilo for the state competition to help Kanoë Malani set up and run the Hamakua SWCD hosted event. Since neither Jenni or I have hosted the state level competition prior, our intentions of that trip were to gain the necessary experience to host successful local and state level contests on Kauai next year.



Students examine 1 of 3 sites at the 2015 annual state competition in Hilo.



All three state teams come together to pose for a picture to commemorate another year of the Conservation Awareness Contest in Hawaii.

(and then immediately tabled in the same breath) at the most recent HACD quarterly meeting, I have taken this as a sign of optimism in terms of the general consensus that this contest is outdated for the likes of today's high school students. Some changes need to be made at the state level if our Conservation District-sponsored competition is going to remain relevant and interesting enough to attract teacher and student participation.

The competition this year was hosted on the farm of Michael Crowell and Leslie Hill of *Wailea Agricultural Group* and the three high schools represented were Pahoa High School from Hawaii (1st place), Kamehameha Schools Maui (2nd place), and Leilehua High School from Oahu (3rd place).

The individual winners were Gernel Javier of Pahoa (1st), Konapilihi Dancil of KS Maui (2nd), and a three-way tie between Alana Kizanis and Mary Noble of Pahoa, and Zachary Luis of KS Maui (3rd). Pahoa High School has the opportunity to travel to Oklahoma City on May 3, 2016 and represent the state of Hawaii at the national contest.

Speaking from our perspective on Kauai, the high school turnout this year was very disappointing and I am afraid that educator and student interest will continue to wane because of our antiquated delivery of this competition.

Consequently, on December 9, I drafted an email to my SWCD counterparts across the Hawaiian Islands (as well as the NRCS staff that helped facilitate the state contest in Hilo, and our Kauai CTAHR contact Matt Stevenson) in hopes of not only keeping this discussion alive, but instigating some real steps towards our 21st Century revision. I understand that HACD and the SWCDs face many financial constraints at this point, but I believe we need to start setting the groundwork for this update otherwise the funds may never be set aside for this project if it has not already been made a priority in terms of progressive action.

By taking the initiative to collect some solid ideas and suggestions for the next guide update, my goal is to produce concrete results that demonstrate a genuine collective effort on the part of soil conservationists and conservation specialists in Hawaii to affect some real changes in this program going into the future. I want our organization to be able to create an opportunity for these students that generates a palpable interest in environmental science and local agriculture, since that is the fundamental purpose of our educational outreach.

Training & Other Workplan-related Projects

2. Description of any major issues/problems encountered and/or resolved that affect your ability to complete conservation plans as required (i.e., weather, personnel, equipment, etc.).

My official start date in the Lihue office was the 5th of October and I submitted the necessary forms and fingerprinting for the federal background check on October 7th. It reached the NRCS state office on October 9th, but I did not gain official computer access until November 19th and then access to the shared office drives was only granted to my account on November 30th. My e-Auth login was not set up until 12/2. And my direct phone line to my desk was not active until 12/3.

3. Description of any significant findings, results, or conclusions. If none, please indicate so.

None.

4. Tasks expected to be completed in the next reporting period

NRCS programs will hopefully be funded and practices can be installed by our clients/producers this year. I will be learning about the next phase of NRCS Programs and following up with our producers who received grant money to start their agricultural practices.

In terms of district business, Jenni asked me to take the lead with the local CAP Contest so I will start connecting with local teachers and conservation-related professionals that have worked with us on the competition in the past. My plan is to reach out to the University of Hawaii CTAHR station and discuss how we are going to approach the contest this year and how we are going to attract more high school participation and student interest.

Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts
ISLAND OF MAUI SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS' CONSERVATION SPECIALIST
 Quarterly Status Report Form

Name, Title: **JASON HEW, HACD – Maui SWCDs CS** (state funded position) Phone: **808-871-5500 ext. 113** Email: jason.hew@hi.nacdnet.net

This Quarterly Status Report is for the period indicated below:

Quarterly Status Report Number: _____

- January 1 – March 31, ____ (Due by April 5th)
- April 1- June 30, ____ (Due by July 5th)
- July 1 – September 30, ____ (Due by October 5th)
- October 1 – December 31, 2015 (Due by January 5th)

Work Plan Action Steps:

1. Assist in the development of Conservation Plans and in the implementation of conservation practices and BMPs.
2. Provide general technical assistance to SWCD Directors, District Cooperators, landowners and operators.
3. Assist SWCD Directors and Cooperators in communicating with government agencies.
4. Provide educational information about agriculture and the importance of Conservation Plans to the public.

• **Summary of work completed (list all tasks and deliverables)**

CONSERVATION PLANS						
#	Date Signed	Watershed	Main Practices	Amount (breakdown of practices by ft., yd., etc.)	Total Acres	Cost benefit based on NRCS programs cost list in dollar amount per practice
1	10/7/2015	Launiupoko	Access Road	3476 ft	12	\$8,133.84
			Composting Facility	1 no		\$19,895
			Fence	1895 ft		\$15,368.45
			Forage & Biomass Planting	5.3 ac		\$4,524.61
			Herbaceous Weed Control	5.3 ac		\$663.35
			Tree/Shrub Site Prep	0.6 ac		\$221.74
			Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	1829 ft		\$2,924.34
			Fence	1065 ft		\$7,199.40
			Herbaceous Weed Control	0.5 ac		\$52.15

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PENDING CONSERVATION PLANS - plans that are due to be signed with the next year							
#	Projected Date	Watershed	Possible Practices	Amount (breakdown of practices by ft., yd., etc.)	Total Acres	Cost Benefit based on NRCS programs cost list in dollar amount per practice	Comments
1	1/22/2016	Waiakoa	Access Road	200 feet	0.7	\$1,180	Technical assistance for agricultural tax purposes for unused portion of farm.
			Tree/Shrub Site Prep	0.7 ac		\$324.14	
			Tree/Shrub Establishment	0.7 ac		\$399.50	
			Mulching	0.7 ac		\$182.21	
2	6/30/2016	Wailea	Cover Crop	23.7 ac	52.4	\$5,509.54	Applying for EQIP once lease is renewed with landowner.
			Mulching	23.7 ac		\$27,529.92	
			Nutrient Management	23.7 ac		\$1,174.57	
3	1/6/2016	Maliko	Fence	740 feet	5.2	\$4,284.60	Technical assistance, wants to develop prescribed grazing management plan
			Prescribed Grazing	5.2 ac		\$236.34	
4	1/6/2016	Kailua Gulch	Brush Management	144.9 ac	144.9	\$64,525.42	Applying for EQIP to help the financial cost of rehabilitating the pasture.
			Herbaceous Weed Control	144.9 ac		\$14,159.63	
			Deep Tillage	144.9 ac		\$10,383.53	
			Fence	4971 feet		\$28,782.09	
			Forage and Biomass Planting	144.9 ac		\$123,701.13	
			Livestock Pipeline	3827 feet		N/A	
			Prescribed Grazing	144.9 ac		\$19,757.12	
			Heavy Use Area Protection	1200 sq. ft.		\$2,724	
			Watering Facility	4 no		N/A	
			Conservation Cover	0.6 ac		\$498.24	

Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts
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 Quarterly Status Report Form

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CONSERVATION PRACTICE FOLLOW-UPS					
Date Visited	Watershed	Total Acres	Practice(s) Inspected	Amount (breakdown of practices by ft., yd., etc.)	Comments
11/13/2015	Launiupoko	16.9	Vegetative Barrier	≈ 300 feet	Cooperator planted the first row of the Vegetative Barrier, and has the trench dug for the second row.
12/8/2015	Kalia linui	3.1	Grassed Waterway	≈700 feet	Inspected the progress of the Grassed Waterway installation
12/17/2015	Kalia linui	3.1	Grassed Waterway	≈700 feet	Showed Dan Clegg (Central Maui SWCD Vice Chair) the project
12/23/2015	Launiupoko	16.9	Vegetative Barrier	N/A	Nene are currently nesting in the areas that were to be implemented. On hold until the nene hatch and vacate the area.
			Herbaceous Wind Barrier	N/A	

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ISLAND OF MAUI SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS' CONSERVATION SPECIALIST
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MEETINGS, TRAINING, MARKETING/OUTREACH, WORKPLAN-RELATED PROJECTS			
Date	Event/Deliverable	No. of Participants	Comments
10/1/2015	Baldwin HS CAP Training	7	Administered mock contest for Land Judging Contest
10/2/2015	Baldwin HS CAP Training	2	Administered mock contest for Land Judging Contest
10/5/2015	Kula site visit	4	First site visit with office engineer to look at resource concerns and objectives, and possible structural practices
10/6/2015	Makawao site visit	1	First site visit to look at resource concerns and possible fence locations
10/7/2015	Conservation Webinar	1	Emergency Animal Mortality Management- working with a producer that may encounter this issue
10/7/2015	West Maui SWCD board meeting	9	1 conservation plan signed, Met the new director, Discussed actions for cooperator that is very far behind schedule
10/9/2015	Beef Quality Assurance Workshop	30	Dr. Tim Richards lead a discussion about proper vaccination locations, vaccine handling, syringe handling, cattle & human health/safety

Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts
ISLAND OF MAUI SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS' CONSERVATION SPECIALIST
Quarterly Status Report Form

Name, Title: **JASON HEW, HACD – Maui SWCDs CS** (state funded position) Phone: **808-871-5500 ext. 113** Email: **jason.hew@hi.nacdnet.net**

- **Narrative Progress Report (include photos):**

I. Conservation Planning & Technical Assistance

This was a busy quarter for conservation planning partly due to the fact that the Fiscal Year 2016 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) first round sign up deadline was in October. New cooperators and cooperators that we have been working with throughout the year are applying to receive financial assistance through the Farm Bill program. Due to a lack of NRCS planners, conservation specialist from the districts assisted in the eligibility paperwork and planning process in order to service all of the applicants interested in the Farm Bill programs. Normal duties of a conservation specialist would include the same process for creating a conservation plan as creating a contract for EQIP. The added duties for a Farm Bill program would be gathering and processing eligibility paperwork that is not required for technical assistance and a conservation plan. There are also many more forms required during the planning process for a Farm Bill applicant. The reason for having to complete more forms is that the planner needs to justify the resource concern when there will be financial assistance involved.

II. District Business

The West Maui SWCD board had a meeting on October 7th. There was one conservation plan that got signed at the meeting. The plan is for a chicken farm that produces eggs. The predominant reason for contacting our office was because of the lack of available forage and soil erosion on their access roads. We also incorporated a composting facility practice as a way to dispose of birds that perish due to normal mortality. This cooperator will be applying for the EQIP Farm Bill for 2016.

Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts
ISLAND OF MAUI SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS' CONSERVATION SPECIALIST
 Quarterly Status Report Form

Name, Title: **JASON HEW, HACD – Maui SWCDs CS** (state funded position) Ph



Figure 2: Students during the contest

This quarter the Maui SWCDs hosted the Conservation Awareness Program Land Judging Contest for high school students to participate in. There was a lot of preparation that was required to ensure the participants were well prepared for the contest, as well as setting up the contest site and the contest itself. Prior to the contest, Kylie Wong and I conducted a total of 10 training sessions and mock contests at 3 different high schools and for 1 home school. We tried to contact other high schools to train at but received no response. There was also one contest planning meeting and one train the trainer session.

It is my hopes that more high schools will utilize our assistance prior to the contest to help the students learn about the properties of soils, and understand the contest and how it works. It was apparent from the results after the contest that there were some students that did not quite understand how to correctly fill out the scoresheet. One training would have alleviated any of these issues and students would have scored higher.



Figure 1: Participants of the 2015 CAP Land Judging Contest

Top Team Scores			
1st Place	591 Points	Kamehameha	Zachary Luis
			Konapiliahi Dancil
			Kylie-Ann Pastor
			Brenden Otani

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The contest was held on October 20th on the Hawaii Commercial & Sugar (HC&S) plantation. The site was selected, pits were dug, and each site was evaluated according to the contest scoresheet. This was completed by the HC&S field crew, the Maui SWCD conservation specialists, an NRCS soil conservationist, and a Cooperative Extension Service extension agent. On the day of the contest, the students gathered at the Cooperative Extension office and were then given directions to the contest site. Once the participants arrived on site, they were broken up into three groups and assigned a starting site. The contest consisted of 2 agricultural sites and 1 homesite for the students to judge. Once all groups judged all 3 sites the scores were tallied and the students ate lunch. Lunch was provided by the Maui SWCDs with beef donated by Buddy Nobriga of Nobriga's Ranch and ice cream donated by Roselani Ice Cream. After lunch the winners were announced. The results of the 2015 Maui CAP Land Judging Contest are as follows:

2nd Place	587 Points	St. Anthony	Micah Leval
			Mindy Montalvo
			Joshua Schwartzlow
			Rey Ramirez
3rd Place	573 Points	Home School	Emma Stoltzfus
			Isabele Werk
			Morgan Stoltzfus
			Issac Werk

Top Individual Scores			
1st Place	246 Points	St. Anthony	Micah Leval
2nd Place	231 Points	Kamehameha	Zachary Luis
3rd Place	197 Points	Home School	Emma Stoltzfus
4th Place	195 Points	Kamehameha	Konapiliahi Dancil

The Kamehameha team went on to the Statewide CAP Land Judging Contest on Hawaii Island and did very well. Konapiliahi Dancil placed 2nd individual, Zachary Luis placed 3rd individual, and Kamehameha Schools Maui placed second as a team.

There was a West Maui SWCD board meeting that took place on December 2nd. There were no conservation plans that got signed. One big issue that was brought up by Vice Chairman Pomaika'i, is the Rapid Ohia Death (ROD) that has been ravaging the Big Island's Ohia forests. The Ohia is the most integral part of most native forest ecosystems and without the Ohia, the native forests will collapse. His concerns are very legitimate and because of his position at Pu'u Kukui Watershed he feels very passionate about this disease. His concern is for the overall health of the watershed and its ability to recharge the aquifer. Little is known about the disease, and more importantly the plan of action if there is ROD

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discovered here on the island of Maui. ROD is now the focus of many conservation agencies and will be a huge part of our focus for outreach and education because of its serious implications to the islands.

There was an Olinda Kula SWCD board meeting that took place on December 11th. There was one conservation plan that got signed at the meeting. The plan is for a cooperators that wants to establish a native overstory for upland wildlife habitat and also as a canopy cover for his tea operation. The native species that are planted will hopefully provide food and shelter for wildlife known to frequent the area.

Conversation of the Upcountry Maui Watershed Project was a main discussion point, focusing on phases 6&7 and the Kealahou lateral that will be located under Kolohala Drive. Kolohala Drive is a privately owned road by 43 owners. The community members are against the installation of the lateral under their road unless certain conditions are met by the project. They are requesting that Kolohala drive be paved to Maui County standards after the lateral is installed. The current condition of the road is poor, with potholes and patches done by the community members. The OKSWCD board has requested that Brian Kau from the Department of Agriculture attend the next board meeting on January 22nd, 2016 to discuss the possibilities and options for completely repaving Kolohala drive after the Kealahou lateral is installed. Currently, the plan is to repave the section of road that is disturbed and nothing else, depending on available funds.

On December 10th, I met with Wes Nohara at the Lahainaluna Diversion for documentation and maintenance purposes. During one of Wes' annual inspections he discovered that there were dirt mounds that were built in the trough of the diversion. These dirt mounds, commonly called "whoops", are used by bicyclists as ramps for fun. These whoops were probably built by kids that have no idea about the importance of keeping the diversion clear of all obstacles. Wes wanted documentation of the obstacles and also of a portion of the berm that was damaged. After documenting the condition of the diversion, Wes and I began moving the dirt from the whoops to the damaged portion of the berm. The obstacles were removed and the berm was repaired with the available material. The work done by Wes and I was recorded and submitted to the responsible land owner.



Figure 4: Wes and Kylie in a trough discussing proper design



Figure 3: The reconstructed berm from the Lahainaluna Diversion

On December 16th, Wes Nohara, Kylie Wong and I conducted the annual inspection of the Lahaina Temporary Flood Control Project. The system consists of an earthen berm and trough and a series of sediment basins. The annual inspection was conducted last year around the same time, and since then there has been no maintenance to the system. One reason for the lack of

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maintenance is that there is no available funding to conduct regular maintenance. Another reason is that some of the damages to the system was made by Goodfellow Bros. while they were constructing the Lahaina Bypass and never fixed the damages. I know that Wes has been in contact with Goodfellow Bros. in an effort to coordinate a time that they can do the repairs. The biggest issue with getting Goodfellow Bros. to commit to the work is that their equipment is located at jobsites around the island and do not have equipment in the immediate area. There is still a large pile of gravel that Goodfellow Bros. will return for, but that time has not yet been decided. A report was compiled after the inspection that documents all of the necessary and recommended repairs that need to be done in order for the system to be properly functioning at its full capacity, and was submitted to the West Maui SWCD board members.

On December 17th Dan Clegg, Central Maui SWCD Vice Chair, accompanied Kylie and I to a cooperators property that has been receiving various complaints. The property is located within the Central Maui SWCD. The makai neighbor has been complaining to various entities since the project has begun. One complaint was directed towards the Central Maui District so Dan wanted to see what was happening on ground for a complaint to come in. We walked the property and gave Dan all of the background information of the project. After the site inspection, Dan was going to contact the neighbor that filed the original complaint. Dan called the complainant and left a voice mail message stating who he was and why he was calling. The complainant never returned Dan's call, so at this point we are waiting to see if the neighbor is still disgruntled by the project. There is a Central Maui SWCD board meeting scheduled for January 6th, and this matter will be discussed in greater detail among the board.

III. Training & Other Work Plan-related Projects

On October 9th, Kylie and I attended the Beef Quality Assurance Workshop that was led by Tim Richards, President of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Association, veterinarian and rancher. This three hour workshop covered topics including vaccination and vaccine handling, syringe hygiene, animal stress, injection sites and injection techniques. Haleakala Ranch hosted the workshop and provide a steer for injection demonstrations. Ten days prior to the workshop, ranchers injected different vaccines in different injection sites of the steer for the demonstration during the workshop. The purpose was to examine the steer 10 days after the injection to observe the effect of the vaccines within the animal's body. On the day of the workshop, Tim injected the steer with some dye so that the spread of the "vaccine" could be seen visually. The steer was put down and Tim proceeded to open the animal so participants could examine the injection sites and their effects. After examining approximately ten different injection sites, Tim led the discussion about proper vaccine handling and care, proper syringe handling and care, castration hygiene,

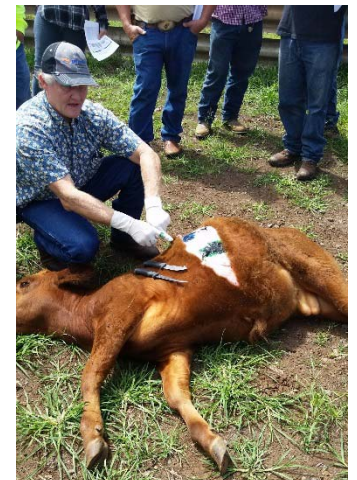


Figure 5: Tim Richards shows participants the injection sites within the steer. Dye can be seen from injections.

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dehorning an animal, animal stress involved during processing, proper injection techniques and injection sites and an update of the Hawaiian ranching herd health. One analogy that Tim made that I think is easy for ranchers and people to remember is that you should treat your vaccine like you would treat your beer. Always keep the vaccine in a functioning cooler with ice, especially Modified Live Vaccines (MLV) to ensure their effectiveness. This was a very useful and educational workshop for me to attend. Growing up on our relatively small family ranch we never vaccinated our herd, so this was a good experience to see the processing of cattle on a larger commercial ranch.

On October 13th and October 14th, the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) held an Ag Pro workshop. There were about 40 participants on the first day. Day 1 comprised of various lectures and power point presentations that revolved around different sectors of agriculture pertinent in Hawaii. Topics included: International year of soils- NRCS, climate change in Hawaii, cover crop calculator, biochar, soil carbon, updates in food safety, Korean natural farming, and a discussion panel with three local organic farmers. Most of the topics were research based and from masters students or doctoral candidates. I thought that the updates in food safety was one of the most applicable topics since every food producer will need to comply with the new rules set forth in the Food Safety Modernization Act. Day 2 of the Ag Pro Workshop entailed site visits to four different farms around Maui. The beginning of the day was slightly altered due to weather and access to the farm being too muddy. Kahana Stone of NRCS was supposed to conduct a soil clod demonstration, but did not due to the change in plans. The purpose is to show differences in soil properties due to different levels of organic matter. Depending on the reason for testing soil clods, you may have clods from a no-till field compared to a conventional till field, or from a conventional farm versus an organic farm. The demonstration would have shown two different soil clods placed into glass cylinders that were filled with water. The clod with more organic matter should stay intact for the most part, while the clod with little organic matter would slake rapidly and eventually dissipate completely. The water from the clod high in organic matter will stay relatively clear, while the other will become cloudy with sediment.

The first farm visit was to Vincent Mina's micro-green farm in the heart of Wailuku Town called Kahanu Aina Greens. Mina's farm is actually his backyard repurposed for micro-green production. The operation is very compact due to space limitations at approximately 2,000 square feet, but the amount of greens produced was amazing. The growing area was two screened rooms that housed the starters and the growing crops on elevated tables, with an automatic watering system. Another area contained the compost pile and worm farm that created the material for the substrate that the micro-greens were grown in. The last area was the refrigerated processing room where the micro-greens were washed, packaged, and stored in a separate refrigerator before delivery. The micro-greens that were produced at the farm included baby greens of sunflower, pea, radish, and wheatgrass, and supply hotels, restaurants, supermarkets, and health food stores on Maui and Oahu.



Figure 6: Micro-greens being grown at Kahanu Aina Greens in Wailuku

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Figure 7: Clark Hashimoto talking about their Persimmon Farm

The second farm visit was to the 3rd generation Hashimoto Persimmon Farm in Kula. The farm and operations is completely run by family members. The farm has recently began making value added products such as dried persimmons, a persimmon scone mix, and persimmon jelly to the family operation. Clark Hashimoto and his son Lance gave us a tour of the orchard and discussed problems and solutions that they face throughout the year. One discussion was about a rose beetle that has taken over a persimmon farm just down the street. Hashimoto said that they have not yet been affected like the neighbor, but there is some evidence of the beetle. The neighbor has set up lights that deter the beetles at night from the orchard. The Hashimotos said that setting up lights in that fashion would not be practical for their operation and a pesticide would be more economically viable. He also discussed the ungulate problems they have recently been dealing with, mostly axis deer. They constructed a fence along the road, and are in process of completing the perimeter. They described that the fence also kept out unwanted passerby from taking fruit since the orchard is adjacent to the road. Hashimoto showed us the different varieties of persimmon they have and how each is traditionally used. After the farm tour, Hashimoto offered us samples of their fruit, and sold products to those that wanted, even those flying back to Oahu.

The third farm visit was at the Maui's Winery vineyard operation located in Ulupalakua. There we met with wine maker Brett Miller. Brett discussed the vineyards history going back 40 years. Miller also discussed the challenges that they are facing now because of how particular the grapes are. After 40 years of farming, the soil health in the vineyard has declined over the years and Miller is now trying modern techniques to reinvigorate the soil's productivity. Miller discussed the use of cover crops between rows to help reintroduce nutrients back into the soil, while not outcompeting the vines. Throughout the vineyard is also a herd of goats that the workers rotate as a means of vegetation control and adding nutrients through manure back into the soil. After Miller and participants discussed the vineyards operations, there was a wine tasting to exhibit the final product of the vineyard. The connection between the cultivation of grapes to the taste and quality of wine is not something that an ordinary person thinks about, but Miller obviously takes both into consideration when making operational decisions.

After a lunch at the Ulupalakua Ranch Store, we continued to our last farm visit at the Kula Makai Farm. The Kula Makai Farm is an aeroponic farm that grows a variety greens. This is the first aeroponic farm or operation that I have seen. The operation is like hydroponics except that the roots of the plants do not sit in water, they are suspended in air and the nutrient rich water is sprayed constantly on the roots. The water is then recaptured and recycled into the system. The "beds" that the greens grow



Figure 8: Kula Makai Farm setup

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in are about 125-150feet long cement troughs lined with an impervious black liner to catch any unused water. The entire system is under a roof structure to help regulate the amount of heat and sunlight the plants receive. The Kula Makai Farm had just recently underwent inspection for compliance under the new Food Safety Modernization Act, and were found compliant. The produce is marketed towards hotels, restaurants, and supermarkets and is said to have a longer shelf life than other greens because the roots are still attached in the package. I really enjoyed this tour because it was the first of its kind that I have seen.

On December 3rd, I attended a Wiki training that was put on by the NRCS state office personnel. The first topic covered the new Fence conservation practice jobsheet and how to properly complete it. This was directed by Adam Reed, Water Quality Specialist. The second topic covered was a new vegetation inventory worksheet to be completed by planners during the conservation planning process. The new worksheet combines multiple older worksheets in one place and gives detailed descriptions of how the worksheet is to be used in the field. The new worksheet can be used under any kind of vegetative field condition, and is expected to be more efficient than past worksheets.

The Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC) held a presentation on December 11th to discuss the Rapid Ohia Death (ROD) disease that has ravaged Big Island Ohia trees. There were representatives from multiple conservation groups on Maui including, the Maui Soil & Water Conservation Districts, MISC, Department of Forestry- Fish and Wildlife, Department of Agriculture, East Maui Watershed Restoration Partnership, Leeward Haleakala Watershed Restoration Partnership, Auwahi Native Forest Restoration Project, The United States Geologic Service, Puu Kukui Watershed, the Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project, and the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. The turnout from multiple agencies should signify the importance of understanding this disease and how important it is to keep ROD from spreading not only to Maui, but to all other Hawaiian islands. The first topic was to inform participants of what exactly ROD is. ROD is a fungus called *Ceratocystis fimbriata* that causes the vascular system in Ohia to become blocked, obstructing the transport of water to the rest of the tree. Discussion of how the fungal spores are transported also occurred. The fungal spores were described as being “sticky” and cannot become airborne unless affixed to a particle that becomes airborne, such as on a dust particle. The spores can become affixed to anything that comes in contact with it, making transportation of Ohia products between islands the main vector of transportation. What to look for and signs of ROD were discussed and examples of what an infected specimen would look like were presented. The Department of Agriculture has already put in place an emergency rule that prohibits the transport or movement of any Ohia products (plants, stems, twigs, cuttings, wood, logs, mulch, greenwaste [except flowers, leaves and seeds], frass and soil) off of the island of Hawaii except by permit. This emergency rule will give researchers added time to try and figure out how to deal with this fungus before it infects other native forests. What was not accomplished at this meeting was to develop a plan of action if there is a suspect or confirmed specimen found on Maui. There will be meetings to develop the plan of action, but in the meantime points of contact were announced if there are any suspicious trees that are encountered. The phone number to call if a suspicious tree is found is the Department of Agriculture at (808) 872-3840. Upcoming events were also discussed because of the possibility of transport to other islands. Events discussed included the 4th of July Makawao Rodeo, the annual Merry Monarch Festival, and the upcoming

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International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress in September of 2016. These events will bring thousands of participants to and from the island of Hawaii, generating thousands of possible vectors for the fungus to spread. All of these event must take into consideration and assist in the prevention of the spread of ROD. The presentation put on by MISC was very informational and is these types of issues need to be discussed and brought to the attention of the general public if we are to collaboratively prevent the spread of diseases and disaster.

There was a total of 7 conservation webinars attended this quarter- Essential Principles for Conservation planning on Pastures, Emergency Animal Mortality Management: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, Using the SVAP2, Matching Appropriate Seed to Conservation Practices, Grazing System Designs for Non-Traditional Livestock, Cover Crops: Why Grow a Crop You Don't Sell?, and Crop Diversity Rotations and Systems for Soil Health. The opportunity to attend these webinars is crucial for the advancement of my knowledge, which will in turn benefit the agriculturalists that I serve.

A. Description of any major issues/problems encountered and/or resolved that may affect the Contractor's ability to complete the project as required (i.e., weather, personnel, equipment, etc.).

As discussed in previous quarterly reports, there is a cooperator in the Launiupoko area that is drastically behind schedule according to the conservation plan. Since the April 27th, 2015 site visit, three structures have begun construction on site. One structure is the main dwelling, another is a second dwelling, and another is a detached garage. There has also been very little done in terms of completing the conservation plan, one of the two vegetative barriers were installed since April 27th. This leaves me to believe that the cooperators priority is focused on the house construction rather than the conservation plan. The West Maui SWCD board wrote a letter to the cooperator informing them that the Vegetative Barrier and Herbaceous Wind Barrier practices must be implemented by the end of December, 2015 in order for the conservation plan to not be canceled. This is a concern for the cooperator because of the circumstances that the conservation plan was developed. The cooperator cleared the entire 15 acre property



Figure 9: Male Nene goose protecting the nesting female

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without a grading and grubbing permit and got reported to the county. The cooperator was told to pay the permit fee and fine, or get a conservation plan. The cooperator decided to create a conservation plan and has completed none of the practices since the plan was approved in February of 2013. I cannot tell if the cooperator is even interested in conservation or if he just wanted to avoid paying a fine to Maui County. During site visits and through conversations it seems that he is excited about conservation and agriculture, but then nothing gets done. I contacted the cooperator towards the end of the year because his deadline for practice installation was coming up. The cooperator informed me that there were two pairs of Nene geese that were now nesting in the area to be planted. I went out to the property to confirm the presence of the geese and they were present. Because the Nene are listed as endangered, I contacted the Department of Land and Natural Resources for consultation. The West Maui SWCD board needs to know an approximate timeframe that the Nene nest for, so that we can compose another letter to send to the cooperator giving them sufficient time to install the two conservation practices. After these two practices are completed, there is still the Conservation Cover and Tree/Shrub Establishment practices that need to be implemented. There is currently no agriculture on the property and the Tree/Shrub Establishment is a planned orchard. It frustrates me because as a conservation specialist we are to be focused on agricultural producers with a legitimate resource concern, and not people that say they are going to eventually establish some fruit trees in order to avoid paying fines to Maui County.

There is another cooperator that is in the Launiupoko area that has an existing chicken farm for producing eggs and will be applying for the EQIP Farm Bill program. As far as the technical assistance goes everything is fine, but programmatically we may not be able to provide financial assistance. The reason for that is because chickens are not considered as “grazing” animals. I do understand that chickens only get about 30% of their diet from plants, but the way that chickens scratch and dig for bugs creates a legitimate resource concern. I was trying to develop a prescribed grazing management plan for the cooperator to improve the availability of forage, but none of the NRCS standards apply to chickens. This is an issue that I am sure a large chicken operation on the mainland has experienced, but I have not yet found any guidance for remediating the cooperators resource concern while providing financial assistance.

A Central Maui SWCD cooperator has been implementing his conservation plan throughout this quarter and there has been a lot of issues involved during the implementation of the plan. This cooperator has been discussed in the previous quarterly report (7/1/15-9/30/15). Since the last quarterly report, there has been flashy storms associated with the active hurricane season this summer. Those storms caused a minor amount of erosion and the downslope neighbor was very concerned by this. The contractors Goodfellow Bros. immediately remediated the situation and established berms that would prevent any sediment from traveling to the neighbor’s property. Silt fences have been in place since the commencement of the project. Even after the minor erosion issue was dealt with, the neighbor has been persistent in every avenue possible to try and get the project stopped (I don’t actually know if the complainant’s objective is to get the project stopped, or to fine him, or something else). The Maui County Planning Department, Development Services Administration, the NRCS State Office, The Central Maui SWCD, and various other agencies have received complaints about the cooperators project. All of the agencies contacted have told the

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complainant that the conservation plan is valid and there is no reason to obstruct the cooperator. I know that there was a meeting between the cooperator, both downslope neighbors, and a mediator on site that took place on Thursday, December 17th, 2015. Since that day, our office has not heard from the complainant and hopefully any concerns have been addressed. As I mentioned in the previous quarterly report, the original plan was lacking information for the cooperator, although an outside engineering company was consulted for designs. After the first complaint came in, our office has devoted ample time of design and site visits and meetings with contractors to ensure that the project is safe, and most importantly, keeps within the goal of soil conservation.

Unfortunately there were no prospects for a public outreach event this quarter. I believe that with the emergence of the Rapid Ohia Death, opportunities for public outreach and education should be utilized.

B. Description of any significant findings, results, or conclusions. If none, please indicate so.

No significant findings, results, or conclusions at this time.

C. Based on work plan action steps, describe tasks expected to be completed in the next reporting period.

I will continue to provide technical assistance to cooperators, landowners, operators and whoever requests our support. New conservation plans will be created for new cooperators and existing conservation plans will be developed as needed. Any conservation practice that is due within the next quarter will be checked for proper and complete implementation. Continued work with other government and private agencies to implement as many conservation practices as possible. Creating opportunities for public outreach and education rather than waiting for the Maui County Fair and AgFest. The County of Maui is now required to participate in the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program as mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency. The Maui SWCDs have been in contact with the County's office and will be assisting in the project as it is being implemented.

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PENDING CONSERVATION PLANS - plans that are due to be signed with the next year							
#	Projected Date	Watershed	Possible Practices	Amount (breakdown of practices by ft., yd., etc.)	Total Acres	Cost Benefit based on NRCS programs cost list in dollar amount per practice	Comments
1	1/31/2016	Waiakoa	Cover Crop	6 ac	20	\$4,184.46	Cropland
			Mulching	6 ac		N/A	
			Conservation Crop Rotation	6 ac		\$3,020.22	
			Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	1 ac		\$26.35	
			Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	660 ft		N/A	
			Irrigation System, Microirrigation	4.5 ac		\$13,690.35	
			Irrigation Water Management	4.5 ac		\$360.09	
2	1/31/2016	Waiakoa	Cover Crop	0.7 ac	2.1	\$488.19	Cropland
			Mulching	0.7 ac		N/A	
			Conservation Crop Rotation	0.7 ac		\$503.37	
			Irrigation System, Microirrigation	0.7 ac		\$2,129.61	
			Irrigation Water Management	0.7 ac		\$56.01	
3	1/31/2016	Waiakoa	High Tunnel System	~2000 SF	2.1	N/A	Cropland
			Conservation Crop Rotation	1.7 ac		\$1,006.74	
			Cover Crop	1.7 ac			
			Critical Area Planting	1.7 ac		\$776.87	
			Mulching	1.7 ac		N/A	
4	1/31/2016	Waiakoa	Cover Crop	1.1 ac	2.1	\$767.15	Cropland
			Mulching	1.1 ac		N/A	
			Conservation Crop Rotation	1.1 ac		\$1,006.74	
			Irrigation System, Microirrigation	1.1 ac		\$3,346.53	
			Irrigation Water Management	1.1 ac		\$88.02	

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#	Projected Date	Watershed	Possible Practices	Amount (breakdown of practices by ft., yd., etc.)	Total Acres	Cost Benefit based on NRCS programs cost list in dollar amount per practice	Comments
5	1/31/2016	Kealii	Land Clearing	21.7 ac	28	\$27,472.20	Pasture
			Brush Management	21.7 ac		\$24,059.22	
			Herbaceous Weed Control	21.7 ac		\$5,164.60	
			Woody Residue Treatment	21.7 ac		\$8,389.00	
			Prescribed Grazing	21.7 ac		\$1,482.98	
6	1/31/2016	Kuiaha	Tree/Shrub Pruning	4.9 ac	4.9	\$6,737.50	Agroforestry
			Woody Residue Treatment	4.9 ac		\$1,403.10	
			Mulching	4.9 ac		\$13,866.48	
7	4/1/2016	Maliko	Cover Crop	4 ac	7	\$1,236.72	Cropland
			Mulching	4 ac		N/A	
			Conservation Crop Rotation	4 ac		\$753.84	
			Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	1 ac		\$478.95	
			Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	380 ft		N/A	

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#	Projected Date	Watershed	Possible Practices	Amount (breakdown of practices by ft., yd., etc.)	Total Acres	Cost Benefit based on NRCS programs cost list in dollar amount per practice	Comments
8	1/31/2016	Kuiaha	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	7 ac	14	\$16,006.34	Agroforestry
			Brush Management	7 ac		\$5,928.23	
			Herbaceous Weed Control	7 ac		\$530.67	
			Multi-Story Cropping	7 ac		N/A	
			Woody Residue Treatment	7 ac		\$5,176.64	
			Mulching	7 ac		N/A	
9	4/30/2016	Pisano	Land Clearing	5.5 ac	5.5 ac	\$10,163.29	Cropland
			Woody Residue Treatment	5.5 ac		\$11,136.18	
10	3/31/2016	Hanehoi	Prescribed Grazing	8 ac	8 ac	\$1,090.80	Pasture
			Brush Management	8 ac		\$1,586.64	
			Herbaceous Weed Control	8 ac		\$1,586.64	
11	6/1/2015	Wailea	Land Clearing	7 ac	7 ac	\$8,302.49	Pasture Associated Land
			Brush Management	7 ac		\$5,289.20	
			Herbaceous Weed Control	7 ac		\$570.01	
			Composting Facility	7 ac		N/A	
GRAND TOTAL					80.2	\$189,862.42	

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CONSERVATION PRACTICE FOLLOW-UPS					
Date Visited	Watershed	Total Acres	Practice(s) Inspected	Amount (breakdown of practices by ft., yd., etc.)	Comments
11/19/2015	Maliko	2	Forage and Biomass Planting	29	Grass growth improving
12/17/2015	Kalialinui	3	Grassed Waterway	700 ft	

Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts
ISLAND OF MAUI SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS' CONSERVATION SPECIALIST
 Quarterly Status Report Form

Name, Title: **KYLIE WONG – Maui SWCDs CS** (County funded position) Phone: **808-871-5500 ext. 111** Email: kylie.wong@hi.usda.gov

MEETINGS, TRAINING, MARKETING/OUTREACH, WORKPLAN-RELATED PROJECTS			
Date	Event/Deliverable	No. of Participants	Comments
10/1/2015	CAP Training	6	
10/2/2015	CAP Training	2	
10/7/2015	WMSWCD Meeting	9	
10/9/2015	Beef Quality Assurance Seminar	30	
10/13/2015-10/14/2015	SOAP CTAHR Ag Professional	30	
10/16/2015	Leeward Haleakala Watershed Partnership Meeting	20	
10/20/2015	CAP Contest	25	
10/28/2015	Staff Meeting	7	
11/10/2015	Business Plan Meeting	7	
11/16/2015	PIA Teleconference	6	
11/17/2015	Spot Check Field Visits	6	
11/19/2015	Farm Bill Programs Roll-Out Teleconference	PIA Wide	
11/24/2015	Farm Bill Programs Roll-Out Teleconference	PIA Wide	
12/2/2015	WMSWCD Meeting	10	
12/3/2015	Wiki Wednesday Training	7	High Tunnel System, Fence, Vegetation Inventory
12/9/2015	Meeting with CMSWCD Director	4	
12/11/2015	Rapid Ohia Death Meeting	50	Hosted by MISC
12/11/2015	OKSWCD Meeting	8	
12/15/2015	Staff Meeting	6	
12/16/2015	Lahaina Temporary Flood Control Inspection	3	

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- **Narrative Progress Report (include photos):**

- I. Conservation Planning & Technical Assistance

This quarter was heavily focused on conservation planning due to the NRCS 2016 Farm Bill Programs sign ups. The SWCD Conservation Specialists have been assisting applicants with eligibility and planning due to the fact that Kahului's NRCS office is understaffed. My work this quarter in conservation planning has been largely focused on planning and gathering necessary eligibility documents for clients interested in applying for Farm Bill programs.

I am currently working on 9 conservation plans that will be developed into Farm Bill program contracts for financial assistance. Aside from getting the proper paperwork filled

out and submitted, time was spent working on supporting documentation for the plans. This includes RUSLE determinations, vegetation inventories, cultural resource inventories, and threatened and endangered species documentation. Multiple site visits to clients' properties were required to complete these inventories, while also meeting to discuss conservation plans.

While I was not able to have any conservation plans signed and approved by the Boards, many of them are already completed. Due to the upcoming technical review of all EQIP

conservation plans by the NRCS State Office, I held off on obtaining Board approval. This is because the technical review may necessitate changes in the plans.

I am eager to move forward in the planning process with these applicants in order to help them address their resource concerns and helping them to potentially receive financial assistance. I believe that this round of planning has given me great experience, as I am working on plans for pasture, cropland, and forestry.

The Kahului Field Office also underwent a spot check. This is when practices that have been certified and reported for goals are selected for review. The spot checker reviews both the folder for documentation and conducts a site visit to verify that the conservation practice has been implemented to standards and specifications. Kori, the acting Area Resource Conservationist, came to Maui for two days to complete the spot checks. Two of my old plans were selected, and I was required



Figure 2. Photo of Haiku pasture taken while conducting vegetation inventory



Figure 1. Photo of agroforestry system taken while conducting vegetation inventory.

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to complete corrective actions by the end of the year. These corrective actions were to fix the CPA-52 Environmental Worksheets and Resource Concern Checklists.

II. District Business

There were a total of three district meetings this quarter—two West Maui, and one Olinda-Kula. The December West Maui meeting was the last meeting for Wes Nohara and Brian Hashiro. They are both retiring, and will no longer serve as associate directors. We thank them for volunteering years of service on the Board.

CAP student training continued into the beginning of this quarter, where we had two last training sessions. The contest was held on October 20th at HC&S. In order for the contest to run smoothly, there was quite a lot of preparation. This included picking the sites, meeting with the backhoe operator to dig the soil pits, and setting the conditions for the sites.

There were 25 students from five schools that participated this year. The Soil Seekers, a home school student group, placed third. This was exciting as this was their first time participating in the CAP contest. Kamehameha Schools placed first, and St. Anthony second.



Figure 3. Student participants at the 2015 CAP Contest

Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts
ISLAND OF MAUI SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS' CONSERVATION SPECIALIST
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The Conservation Specialists also joined Wes Nohara for the Lahaina Temporary Flood Control annual inspection. This inspection was especially important because it was Wes' last, so we will now be conducting the inspection. It was important to learn what maintenance needs to be done, and how structural integrity of the berms, troughs, and drainage ways can be improved. Grubbing of vegetation in diversion troughs, and repairing berms damaged from human activities were the main concerns. We also went to inspect access roads on the Kamehameha Schools Kuia lands, as there were reports of erosion issues. These access roads were put in by the State for fire protection, but were completed in a manner that did not account for drainage and erosion. The roads were cut straight up and down, and have neglected the use of existing diversions to drain water into the gulches. There were large rills along the sides of the road, and many exposed rocks where soil had eroded away. Fixing these roads will be very expensive, but a collaborative effort between landowners and stakeholders will hopefully allow these concerns to be addressed.



Figure 4: Buffel grass and Opiuma trees in trough

III. Training & Other Work Plan-related Projects

A. Description of any major issues/problems encountered and/or resolved that may affect the Contractor's ability to complete the project as required (i.e., weather, personnel, equipment, etc.).

Excessive rain has been preventing many cooperators from implementing conservation practices. Other issues encountered have been with unhappy neighbors who have been attempting to derail projects, and nene geese nesting in planned practice installation areas. One cooperator has been having trouble finding consistent labor for black wattle removal in their pastures. Limited assistance from the Districts and NRCS has been a challenge for one cooperator who would like to receive financial assistance through the EQIP program. This is because they are raising pasture chickens. According to NRCS, chickens are not considered grazing animals. Therefore, the land use is not considered to be pasture. Many practices that would normally be applicable to help address resource concerns in pasture settings, cannot be used.

B. Description of any significant findings, results, or conclusions. If none, please indicate so.
None at this time.

C. Based on work plan action steps, describe tasks expected to be completed in the next reporting period.

Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts
ISLAND OF MAUI SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS' CONSERVATION SPECIALIST
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Over the next quarter, majority of the pending plans listed will be signed and approved. Most of the conservation plans are for applicants who are planning to apply for the NRCS EQIP program. Additionally, there are some conservation plans that are simply Conservation Technical Assistance plans for that should also be completed over the next reporting period. I have a few more vegetation inventories to complete for conservation plans as well. After the New Year, I plan to meet with most of my cooperators to further discuss their plans. This is because the deadlines are fast approaching in February for those interested in EQIP.

There are at least two District meetings planned for this coming quarter, where I will present conservation plans for approval. I will also be following up with all existing cooperators. The upcoming Olinda-Kula meeting will be to discuss the Kealahou Lateral of the Upcountry Water Line project with the Brian Kau of the Department of Agriculture.

Hawaii Association of Conservation District's
Conservation Specialist
Quarterly Status Reporting Form

Quarterly Status Reports are required in order to provide data and to meet requirements set forth within the Work Plan.

This Quarterly Status Report is for the period indicated below:

- January 1 – March 31, _____ (Due April 15th)
- April 1- June 30, _____ (Due July 15th)
- July 1 – September 30, 2015 (Due October 15th)
- October 1 – December 31, 2015 (Due January 15th)

Title: HACD Conservation Specialist,

Location: Soil & Water Conservation Districts on the island of: Oahu

Quarterly Status Report Number: Quarter 4

Name, telephone number, and e-mail of person to be contacted for questions regarding this report:

Jeana Cadby, (808) 541-2600 ext. 103, jeana.cadby@hi.nacdnet.net

Please provide the following information for this reporting period. Additional sheets may be attached:

1. Progress/tasks started and/or completed as defined in the Contract's Scope of Services during **current** reporting period.
 - Projects include:
 - Developing Honolulu County SWCD outreach materials for project/SWCD promotion
 - Completing City and County grant to rate completed conservation plans
 - NRCS assistance
 - Tasks include:
 - Assisting the development and implementation of conservation plans and conservation practices
 - Providing general technical assistance to SWCD board members and Cooperators
 - Website management and upkeep
 - New employee training
- a) Summary of work completed (list all tasks and deliverables)
 - Training new West Oahu SWCD employee
 - Training new ORCD employee
 - New "Partners" manual for outreach materials

Conservation Plan				
#	<i>Date Signed</i>	<i>Total Acres</i>	<i>Main Practices</i>	<i>Amount</i>
	<i>Grand Total (this Report)</i>	0 ac		
	<i>Grand Total (this Report + following reports)</i>	3245.9		

* Pending Conservation Plans				
#	<i>Date Projected</i>	<i>Total Acres</i>	<i>Possible Practices</i>	<i>Amount</i>
1	1/2016	11	<i>Irrigation Water Management</i>	
2	1/2016	1	<i>Brush Management</i>	
3	1/2016	162	<i>Prescribed Grazing</i>	
4	1/2016	5	<i>Grassed Waterway</i>	
5	1/2016	109	<i>Prescribed Grazing</i>	
6	1/2016	2.2	<i>Conservation Cover</i>	
7	1/2016	1	<i>Conservation Cover</i>	

*pending: plans are due to be signed within the next quarter

Technical Assistance/Mapping/ Non-Planning Contact				
#	Date of Contact	Total Acres	Provision	District
1	10/2015	105	Technical Assistance	West SWCD
2	10/2015	51.9	Technical Assistance	West SWCD
3	10/2015	162.8	Technical Assistance/Mapping	West SWCD
4	11/2015	105	Technical Assistance/Mapping	West SWCD/CREP
5	12/2015	100+ (3.1)	Technical Assistance	Windward SWCD
6	12/2015	100+	Mapping/Technical Assistance	West SWCD
7	11/2015	1	Technical Assistance/Mapping	Windward SWCD
8	11/2015	2	Technical Assistance/Mapping	Windward SWCD
9	10/2015	1.7	Technical Assistance	Windward SWCD
10	12/2015	10	Technical Assistance	West SWCD

Conservation Practice Follow-ups				
#	Date Visited	Total Acres	Practice(s) Inspected	Amount
1	10/12/15	51.9	Conservation Cover	1
2	11/4/15	105	Irrigation Water Management	45.9
3	11/3/15	162	Prescribed Grazing	25
4	10/1/15	6.6	Critical Area Planting, Irrigation Water Management	3.5
5	10/1/15	1,300	Cover Crop, Crop Rotation	301
6	10/12/15	384	Brush Management, Prescribed Grazing	384

Meetings, Training, Workplan-related Projects	
<i>Event/Deliverable</i>	<i>Date</i>
LCC Advisory Committee meeting	11/17/15
ORCD Meeting/Contract Panning	12/7/15
CRASH Night Waipahu HS/Outreach Recruitment	10/21/15
Online Planner Certification	Ongoing

b) Narrative Progress Report (Please include photos):

Conservation Planning & Technical Assistance

This quarter, due to a decision made by the NRCS field office, conservation plans were not to be created through the NRCS office. As an SWCD conservation specialist, planning responsibilities are prepared under the supervision of the NRCS field office, and without the support of NRCS, zero conservation plans could be brought to the SWCD meetings for approval.

Currently, Technical Assistance services are being provided to cooperators with valid conservation plans, as well as cooperators who are waiting for approval of a conservation plan.

An increased number of cooperators interested in prescribed grazing practices have come forward for conservation plans. This is exciting because these land managers tend to hold larger parcels of land, and use it less intensively than farmers. This has great potential impacts for conservation, and also provides an opportunity to work with CTAHR fire management strategies and other experts (Photo 1).

In addition, land managers who are interested in restoring historical lo-I have come forward requesting technical assistance. In the past, these managers were hesitant to work with the Districts, and them coming forward is a good sign for us (Photo 2).

Lastly, our work with private homestead-type land owners (1-5 acres on a home site) has been increased via word of mouth, and new home/land owners are stepping forward to get technical assistance and a conservation plan for a future farm. Many of these sites go right up to adjacent residential sites, so good planning is necessary to ensure that the neighbors do not face any issues as a result of living adjacent to a farming operation. We look forward to working with these land owners as well (Photo 3).

Some of the technical assistance requests have been becoming more complicated as issues regarding SWCD and DPP are sorted out. Questions regarding cooperator status with a group lease and license have come up, and it seems will need to be sorted out district-by-district. With increased communication between all three districts, hopefully the answers to these inquiries can be sorted out for a response. Until then, we have been patiently awaiting the meeting.



Photo 1- Eric of Kaala Farms points to the boundaries of the property.



Photo 2- Restored historic loi.



Photo 3- Some residential lots are adjacent to the future farming operations of “homestead” type cooperators

District Business

A tri-district meeting is in order to address the situation with the NRCS field office. Agenda items are likely to include the MOU for DPP, NRCS and any cooperators.

Training & Other Workplan-related Projects

2. Description of any major issues/problems encountered and/or resolved that affect your ability to complete conservation plans as required (i.e., weather, personnel, equipment, etc.).

The biggest issues that arose this quarter were in regards to the NRCS non-support situation described in “Conservation Planning and Technical Assistance”.

3. Description of any significant findings, results, or conclusions. If none, please indicate so.
All Districts operate under unique guidelines regarding planner certification and the association of qualified individuals that can present conservation plans for SWCD approval. Final NRCS planner certification is not possible due to a lack of a required training that needs to become available. I am currently missing only that certification.
4. Tasks expected to be completed in the next reporting period
Given the approval of the SWCD chairs, the conservation plans on hold should be available to be presented to the districts for approval.

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

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

FEBRUARY 5, 2015

TESTIMONY ON
HB 2420
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE HAWAII
ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Cullen and committee members:

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

We **support** HB 2420 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 an invaluable land stewardship service 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 HB 2420 that provides the HACD the funding necessary to support Hawaii's farmers and ranchers. Thank you.

LARRY JEFTS FARMS, LLC
PO BOX 27
KUNIA, HAWAII 96759
(808) 688-2892

HB 2420, Making An Appropriation to The Hawaii Association of
Conservation Districts
House WAL Committee
Friday, February 5, 2016
8:30 am
Conference Room 325

Testimony by: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support

Chair Yamane, and Members of the House WAL Committee:

I am Larry Jeffs, owner and operator of Larry Jeffs Farms, LLC, which is part of our family-run business of farms on Oahu and Molokai, under the administrative umbrella of Sugarland Growers, Inc. We have more than 35 years of Hawaii farm experience on Molokai and Oahu. I am a volunteer director for the West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

The SWCD framework and authority were created through HRS 180. It helps farmers and ranchers with conservation plan development as well as assist respective County governments' with grading permit and plan reviews. Throughout the State, 80 volunteer directors in 16 SWCD work with local area partners to accomplish its work that includes conservation and environmental education outreach.

Your support of this funding request will go far toward strengthening environmental stewardship of agriculture soil and water use, particularly as Hawaii welcomes many new farmers and ranchers. It will also facilitate eligibility of farmers and ranchers for federal and state programs that require conservation plans and its implementation at the farm or ranch level.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony



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, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

TESTIMONY ON HB 2420
RELATING TO HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Room 325
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 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.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau strongly supports HB 2420, providing funding for staffing and operations of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD).

HFB appreciates the support provided by the legislature to the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts. This program is an excellent example of successful public-private partnerships that brings benefit not just to farmers and ranchers, but to everyone in the State of Hawaii.

HACD is a quasi public organization authorized by the Hawaii Soil and Water Conservation Law, Chapter 180, Hawaii Revised Statutes. It was organized under the State Department of Land and Natural Resources for the protection and conservation of soil and water resources in the interest of the health, safety, and general welfare of people in this region.

The program is a partnership between Federal, State, County and local volunteers. It has been one of the major players in water source development and flood control projects in addition to soil and water conservation projects. Via its' parent organization the National Association of Conservation Districts, it is directly associated with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services. NRCS provides training, office space and equipment along with technical assistance to the volunteer boards. State and County funding is used to provide additional technical support specific to the various Counties. The districts play a critical role in the delivery of federally funded programs to farmers and ranchers across the State. A brochure summarizing their accomplishments is attached to this testimony.

Last year, the Legislature did approve funding that was reduced by 10% during the release of funds process. HACD adjusted its' budget by reducing programs. This is problematic as farm and ranch needs are increasing due to increased regulatory requirements. State and County agencies face increased scrutiny by EPA for pollution issues many of which directly associated with the mission of the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), outreach mission. We know that by increasing our outreach efforts we will not only help our farmers and ranchers meet regulatory requirements but help the state meet EPA requirements in areas such as stormwater management.


During the past year, we have seen increased scrutiny of our farmers and ranchers associated with practices long seen as generally accepted by the agricultural community. We also have increased populations of immigrant farmers who are not familiar with local laws. A compilation of best management practices is needed. Each farmer or rancher can use the reference as a toolbox, selecting those practices that can work under their conditions. Hawaii Farm Bureau feels this is a critical need and believes that the SWCDs are the appropriate mechanism for delivery of these services. Many of the references are available via the USDA-NRCS but are not consolidated in a manner easily accessible by our farmers and ranchers. We need to do this as soon as possible. A good example is conservation practices on the lands to increase water infiltration during storm events. If done correctly it can provide greater drought tolerance by upland farms and ranches while reducing stormwater impacts to low lying urban areas. Such measures are especially critical during these times of increased drought incidences throughout the State.


The funds appropriated will be leveraged with our Federal and County resources. There are many USDA funded programs that can be used in the state but staffing is needed to access the programs. This funding is a good investment and its' impact will multiply as programs are implemented. We appreciate your serious consideration of this request and respectfully request your **support** in passing this measure.


Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

MAHALO TO OUR PARTNERS

Federal Partners

 **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service,**
<http://www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov>
 NRCS is the main technical assistance provider for the 16 SWCDs in Hawai'i. District planners work out of NRCS Field Offices and all of our conservation plans are done according to NRCS standards.


USDA Farm Service Agency,
 <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/>
 FSA administers and manages farm commodity, credit, conservation, disaster and loan programs. Hawaii farmers produce a variety of agricultural commodities, and the Hawai'i FSA strives to serve our unique agricultural communities with farm programs and low-interest loans.


 **Environmental Protection Agency,**
<http://www.epa.gov/region09/>
 EPA strives to protect human health and the environment nationwide. In Hawai'i, EPA develops and enforces regulations, provides financial assistance for environmental programs, sponsors volunteers, and expands the community's knowledge of the environment through education and research.

 **USDA Rural Development,**
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/hi/>
 RD seeks to meet the needs of our diverse rural population by delivering Rural Development programs and services in housing, rural utilities, and business-coops.

State of Hawai'i Partners


 **Department of Land & Natural Resources,**
<http://www.hawaii.gov/dlnr>
 As a sub-entity of the State, HACD falls under the State of Hawai'i DLNR. DLNR has a wide range of responsibilities, ranging from land management and permitting to historic preservation and natural resources conservation.


 **Department of Health – Clean Water Branch,**
<http://health.hawaii.gov/cwb>
 The State of Hawai'i DOH aims to protect and improve the health and environment for all people in Hawai'i. Its Clean Water Branch focuses on keeping our inland and coastal waters healthy, and directs the Polluted Runoff Control Program, which administers grant money from EPA through Section 319(h) of the Federal Clean Water Act to address polluted runoff throughout the State.


 **University of Hawai'i Cooperative Extension Service,**
<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/site/extprograms.aspx>
 UH Extension Service provides science-based information in agriculture, natural resources and human resources. Its Agricultural Diagnostic Service Center provides insect identification and disease diagnosis; soil, plant, water and feed analysis; and seed sales of cultivars of vegetables and papayas developed by the College.


 **Coastal Zone Management Program,**
<http://www.hawaii.gov/dbedt/czm/>
 The Hawai'i CZM Program partners several environmental programs in Hawaii to promote a sustainable coastal environment by building upon our heritage and inspiring island stewardship.

County Partners


 **County of Kaua'i,**
<http://www.kauai.gov/>
 Kaua'i County serves the transportation, safety, environmental and developmental needs of Kaua'i citizens. The County has been actively supporting East & West Kaua'i SWCDs activities for many years.


 **City & County of Honolulu,**
<http://www.honolulu.gov/>
 The City & County of Honolulu offers a variety of services to the citizens of O'ahu. Over the past 2 years, the City has helped fund two O'ahu SWCDs planners through the O'ahu RC& D.

 **County of Maui,**
<http://www.co.maui.hi.us/>
 Maui County encompasses the islands of Maui, Molo-ka'i, Lāna'i and Kaho'olawe. The County has offered financial and in-kind support for the Maui SWCDs over many years.

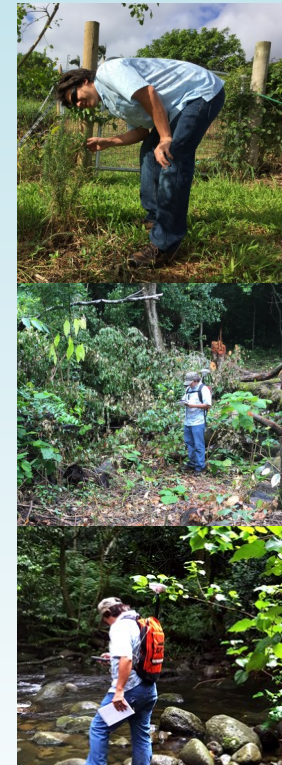
 **County of Hawai'i,**
<http://www.hawaii-county.com/>
 In addition to the many services it offers, Hawai'i County is a long standing supporter of the Hawai'i Island SWCDs.

Non-Profit Partners

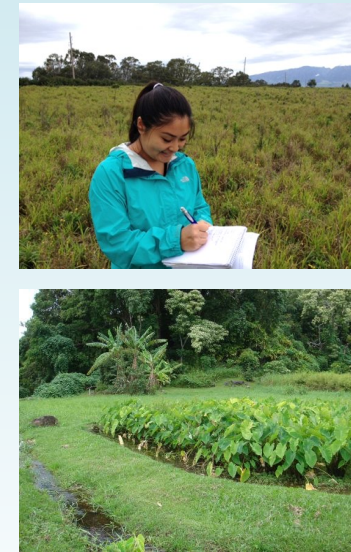
 **Hawai'i Farm Bureau Federation,**
<http://www.hfbf.org/>
 The Hawaii Farm Bureau is a non-profit organization that promotes local farming by analyzing issues and formulating actions to ensure the future of Hawai'i agriculture. Issues include taxes, land use, water, legislative activity and marketing. All agricultural producers are strongly encouraged to join.

 **Resource Conservation & Development,**
<http://www.pacrimrcd.org/>
 NRCS established the RC & D program to accelerate natural resources conservation and development and utilization of natural resources. RC & D groups improve the capability of state and local agencies in rural areas by focusing efforts and assistance on individual producers.

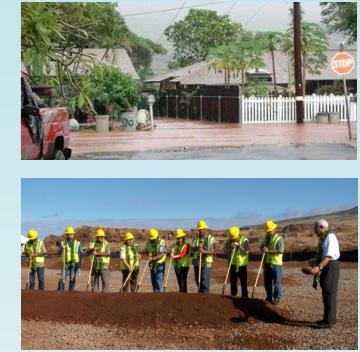
O'ahu RC & D: <http://www.oahurcd.org/>
 Garden Isle RC & D: <http://www.gircd.org/>
 Tri Isle RC & D: <http://tri-isle.org/>
 Big Island RC & D: <http://www.bigislandrcd.org/>



CONSERVATION PLANNING



WATERSHED PLANNING/PROJECTS



People
Land
And
Nature

CONSERVATION EDUCATION



COMMUNITY OUTREACH





Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts
sustainable quality of life through visionary conservation

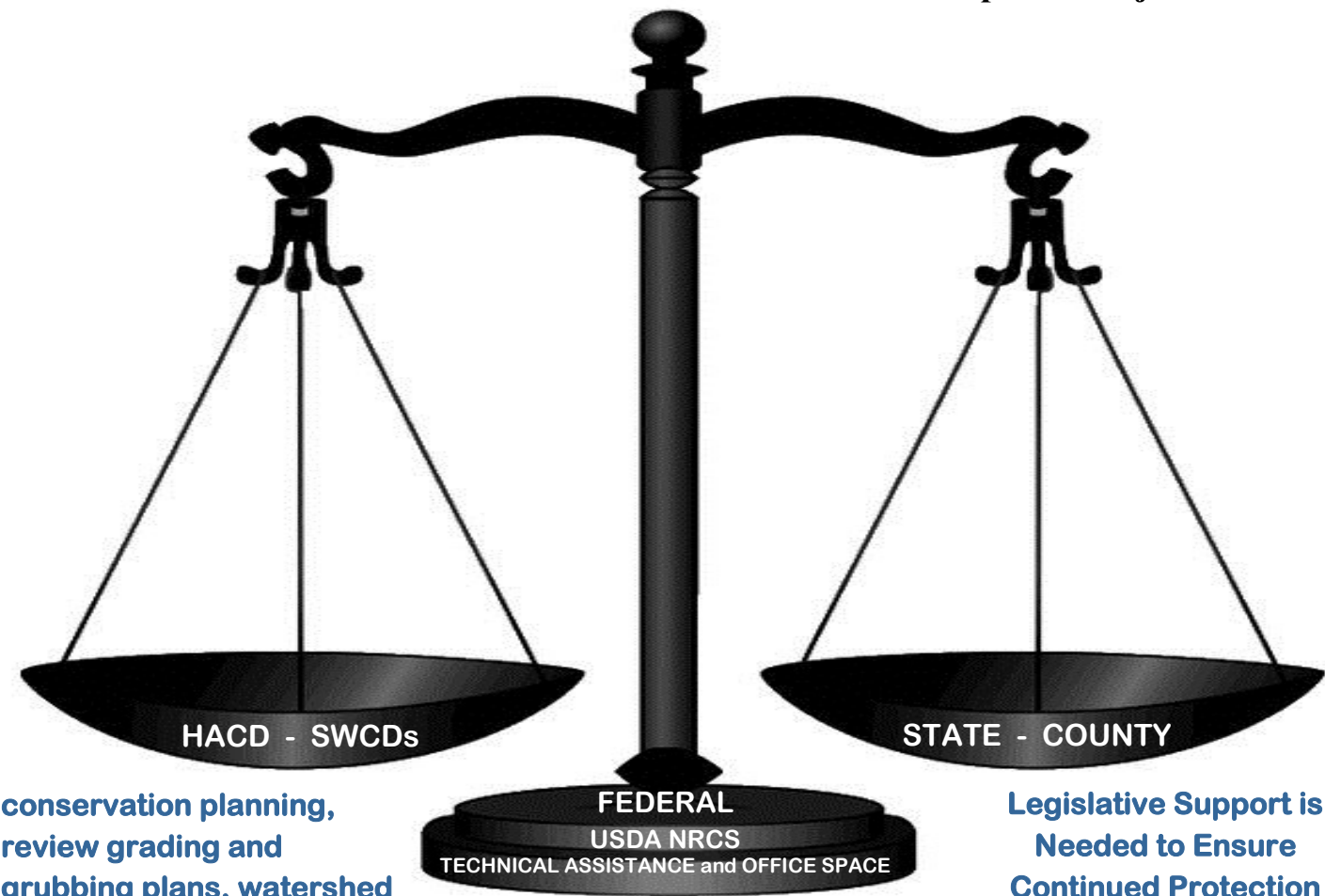


Who we are

The Soil & Water Conservation Districts are legally constituted, self-governing units under the Hawaii Soil and Water Conservation Law, Chapter 180, Hawaii Revised Statutes. We were organized under the State Department of Land and Natural Resources for the protection and conservation of soil and water resources in the interest of the health, safety, and general welfare of people in this region.

What we do

- ◆ **Conservation Planning**
- ◆ **Public Outreach**
- ◆ **Special Projects**



A voluntary board cannot adequately provide enough time to initiate, implement, and support its program.

Conservation Education Program

- Sammy Soil & Ruby Raindrop
- Conservation Awareness Program - Land Judging Contest
- Conservation Poster Contest
- Make a Splash with Project WET (Water Education for Teachers)
- Hanalei Elementary School Conservation Education Area.
- Fireweed Eradication and Education Project
- Agricultural Road Drainage Techniques
- Created a Windbreak educational video.
- Animal waste management, stream bank protection, and erosion control to assist farmers in employing better practices workshops
- Hanalei Valley Irrigation Intake Protection/ Streambank Stabilization Preliminary Investigation Project
- Demonstration and Training in Critical Area Stabilization Techniques on Agricultural Roads and Unprotected Waterways
- Year of the Soil - Soil Health Workshops throughout the state
- Educate elected officials as to what our community's resource concerns are and how to address them
- Kona's Native Hawaiian Plant Book



Community Outreach

- USDA Grant Programs to Improve and Protect Ag and Conservation Lands
- Maui Fair
- Hawaii State Capitol Ag Day
- Ag Fest
- Watershed Education for elementary and high school students, and community organizations.
- Initiating optimum water utilization meeting with the community and landowners.
- Coordinated Resource Management Plan



(CREP)

- Worked with County, State, and Piihonua Community Association on gaining visible access to Diversion No. 4 of the Wailuku/Alenaio Inspection Project.
- Earth Day

Other Miscellaneous Items

- Lanai and Molokai Market Places
- Molokai Heifer Program
- Coqui Frog Eradication Program
- Miconia Eradication Program
- Maui Invasive Species
- Animal Stocking & Quarantine Station
- Community Wildfire Protection Plans
- MoMISC – Molokai (Maui) Invasive Species Committee
- Molokai Agricultural Community Program
- Molokai Recycling Center Proposal
- Molokai Heifer Project
- Molokai Junk Car Removal
- Maalaea Wind Farm project.
- Developed a Hawaiian Arboretum in Wailua.
- Kekaha Game Management Area
- Participate in the Kauai County Drought Mitigation Committee.
- Kupulena Ag Park Development
- Applied for funding from the Bureau of Reclamation to haul water to 291 landowners, farmers, ranchers and residential property owners who do not have access to the municipal water supply and are being affected by severe drought conditions.
- Ahu Lani Sanctuary Restoration Project



For a complete list of SWCD partnership projects, visit <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/swcd> or email hacdhawaii@gmail.com

SOME OF SWCDs' STATEWIDE PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

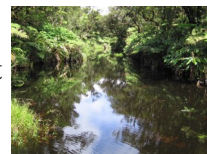
Conservation Planning

- State DLNR Requirements for Conservation Plans on All New Land Leases
- Develop and Review Conservation Plans
- Review and Comment on County Grading and Grubbing Plans
- Honolua Bay Coral Reefs Initiative Projects.
- Rural Water Project
- Molokai Ag Development Projects
- Maui Ag Development Projects Phase 1, 2
- Keanae Water Flume Restoration Project
- Kahakuloa Stream Intake Project
- Guidelines to Hawaii State Livestock Waste Management
- Assisted DLNR in the Permitting and Construction Phase of the Hanalei Project
- Operations and Maintenance Inspection of the Wailuku/Alenaio Project.
- Irrigation Project at Kokee
- Improved Access of Hoopii Pond
- Ookala Re-forestation Project.
- Native species vegetation restoration plan, fire management plan, sediment management plan and educational materials
- Agricultural Road Stabilization Project at Pioneer Hi-Bred's Waimea Research Center.
- Restore irrigation systems abandoned by Lihue Plantation Co.

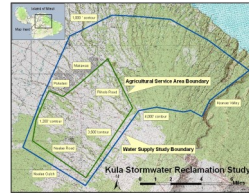


Watershed Planning and Projects

- West Maui Ridge to Reef Initiative
- Honolua Watershed Project
- West Maui Algae Bloom Projects
- Lahaina Interim Flood Control Project
- Lahaina Watershed Project
- West Maui 319 Projects
- Puamana Channel Maintenance Project
- Lahainaluna High School Drainage Improvement Project



- State Land Terraces – Lahaina
- Sugarcane Diversion Improvements
- Kamehameha School Diversion Improvements
- Feral Animal Control Fencing Project
- Upcountry Dual Waterline
- TAKO POKE Project: construction of multiple Best Management Practices (BMPs) within drainage ways mauka of Wailea/Kihei.
- Watershed Base Plan for South Molokai
- Kula Storm Water Reclamation Study
- Southwest Maui Watershed Based Plan.
- Moomomi Watershed Project
- Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP)
- Kekaha Watershed Project
- Lower Hamakua Ditch Project
- Hilo Bay Watershed-Based Restoration Plan to improve water quality in Hilo Bay.
- Emergency Funding for Flood Damages and Prevention on North Shore Kauai
- Emergency response funding through NRCS for Hurricane Iniki in 1992
- Ulumalu-Peahi Water Line Distribution
- Kahoolawe Restoration Project
- Operations and Maintenance Inspection of the Naalehu Debris Basin Watershed project.
- Pelekane Bay Watershed Project
- Proposing studies to determine and address runoff into Kealahou Bay.
- Manawainui Watershed Implementation Project
- Waiahewahewa Watershed Project
- Sponsored the Hanalei River Suspended Sediment Monitoring Project
- DOH Agreement to perform baseline survey of Makeahua Gulch
- DOH Agreement to update CRMP Waiulaula Watershed Management
- Waipio Valley Flood Damage Reduction and Stream Stabilization Preliminary Investigation
- Kona SWCD Flood Control Structure Inspections and Assists with Flash Flood Damage Assessments



1 - Identify Problems and Opportunities

Planning can start with a problem, an opportunity, shared concerns, or a perceived threat.



2 - Determine Objectives

The stakeholders identify their objectives.



3 - Inventory Resources

Appropriate natural resource, economic and social information for the planning area is collected.

CONSERVATION PLANNING



4 - Analyze Resource Data

Study the resource data and clearly define existing conditions for all of the natural resources, including limitations and potential for the desired use.



5 - Formulate Alternatives

to achieve the goals for the land, by solving all identified problems, taking advantage of opportunities, and meeting the social, economic, and environmental needs of the planning project.



6 - Evaluate Alternatives

to determine their effectiveness in addressing the client's problems, opportunities and objectives.

Conservation Plan



7 - Make Decisions

The land owner/manager chooses which project or plan will work best for their situation.



8 - Implement the Plan

Technical assistance is provided to help with the installation of adequate and properly-designed conservation practices.



9 - Evaluate the Plan

Conservation planning is an ongoing process that continues long after the implementation of a conservation practice.





Hawaii Soil & Water Conservation Law
Chapter 180



Department of Land & Natural Resources

National Association of Conservation Districts
3000 Conservation Districts Represents America
<http://www.nacdnet.org/about/districts/index.phtml>

Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts
<https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/swcd>

Sixteen (16) Soil & Water Conservation Districts



Our Boards

<u>Olinda-Kula</u> 808-871-5500 ext. 3	<u>Molokai-Lanai</u> 808-567-6869 ext. 102	<u>Waiakea</u> 808-933-8350	<u>West Oahu</u> 808-541-2600 ext. 103	<u>Ka'u - Puna</u> 808-933-8350
<u>South Oahu</u> 808-541-2600 ext. 103	<u>Kona</u> 808-322-2484 ext. 100	<u>East Kauai - West Kauai</u> 808-245-9014 ext. 3		<u>Hana</u> 808-871-5500 ext. 3
<u>West Maui</u> 808-871-5500 ext. 3	<u>Mauna Kea</u> 808-885-6602 ext. 100	<u>Central Maui</u> 808-871-5500 ext. 3	<u>Windward Oahu</u> 808-541-2600 ext. 103	<u>Hamakua</u> 808-933-8363



VOLUNTEER BOARD OF DIRECTORS
each board consists of
5 Voting Members - 3 elected, 2 appointed
+ Associate Directors - non-voting members

Our Partners

Our mission is to provide a healthy natural resources environment for the people by coordinating technical, financial, and educational resources.

Federal
USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Forest Service;
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency;
U.S. Department of the Interior – Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service

State
Department of Land & Natural Resources,
Department of Health – Clean Water Branch,
University of Hawaii Cooperative Extension Service,
Coastal Zone Management Program

County
County Of Kauai, City & County of Honolulu, County of Maui, County of Hawaii

Non-Profit
Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, Resource Conservation and Development – Garden Isle RC&D, Oahu RC&D, Tri-Isle RC&D, and Big Island RC&D



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 7:56 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2420 on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM*

HB2420

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Ponoholo Ranch Limited	Support	No

Comments:

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 6:08 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: gregf@haleakalaranch.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2420 on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM*

HB2420

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gregory Friel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 2:35 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: marjorie.stanphill@hi.nacdnet.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2420 on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM*

HB2420

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marj Stanphill	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 9:38 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: wmitno@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2420 on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM*

HB2420

Submitted on: 2/4/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wesley M Nohara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 8:50 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: ashman.janet@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2420 on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM

HB2420

Submitted on: 2/4/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
J. Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for supporting Hawaii's farmers and ranchers!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 8:47 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: lvierra@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2420 on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM

HB2420

Submitted on: 2/4/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leonard J. Vierra	Individual	Support	No

Comments: A much needed position supporting the Kauai County Grading and Grubbing Ordinance, field testing and improving agriculture programs of Kauai.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 8:36 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: mary.robblee@hi.nacdnet.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2420 on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM

HB2420

Submitted on: 2/4/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Robblee	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Our soils need help, our producers need help helping the soil. By supporting this bill the legislator is acknowledging the importance of our soil and its ability to sustain us when nothing else will. If you think "Food Security" is important, then you will vote for this bill.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 8:06 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: petertausend@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2420 on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM

HB2420

Submitted on: 2/4/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peter Tausend	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill. HACD needs this appropriation to fund conservation planners to assist our state's farmers and ranchers in planning and implementing an array of conservation practices that will help protect our precious reefs and near shore waters.

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Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 7:04 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: jimmygomes@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2420 on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM*

HB2420

Submitted on: 2/4/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jimmy Gomes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 6:45 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: mck0714@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2420 on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM*

HB2420

Submitted on: 2/4/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maggie Kramp	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 2:13 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: grayboy24@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2420 on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM*

HB2420

Submitted on: 2/4/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leslie Takayama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



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

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson



TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

February 5, 2016
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 325

HOUSE BILL NO. 2420
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Chairperson Yamane and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2420. This bill appropriates funds to the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD) to assist with its staffing and operating costs. The Department of Agriculture supports this bill, but ultimately defers to the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Proper conservation practices are essential to a farmer's success, and conservation plans are an important tool for farmers to use in order to maximize soil retention by implementing erosion and sediment control best management practices. 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.





LATE

February 5, 2015

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Ty J.K., Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Water and Land

Strong support of HB 2420 - Appropriates moneys for the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts to assist with its staffing and operating costs.

Friday, February 5, 2016, at 8:30 a.m., in Conference Room 325

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **strong support of HB 2420**.

HB 2420. This bill proposes to appropriate moneys from the general revenues of the State of Hawaii for the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts to assist with its staffing and operating costs.

LURF's Position. LURF is in strong support of this measure to appropriate funds the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts, because the 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.

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 reviews of conservation plans and county grading permit 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.

For the above reasons, LURF **strongly supports HB 2420** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this matter.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

**COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
REPRESENTATIVE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE TY J.K. CULLEN, VICE CHAIR**

DATE: Friday, February 5, 2016
TIME: 8:30 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 325

**HB 2420 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS.**

Appropriates moneys for the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts to assist with its staffing and operating costs.

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dale Sandlin, and I am Managing Director of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 140+ member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of approximately 25% of the State's total land mass.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **strongly supports** HB 2420.

The Preamble of HB 2420 very accurately states the vital role the 16 Soil & Water Conservation Districts play in Hawaii, in protecting the environment. While the Districts are a quasi-governmental board under the Department of Land & Natural Resources with community volunteer District Directors, the Districts are ridiculously underfunded by the State and receive little assistance to do their vitally important work for the people of Hawaii.

Please support this bill and the funding the Districts desperately need, which they will leverage to do much more than the bill provides.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

