

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of**  
**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
**Chairperson**

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

**Friday, February 10, 2017**  
**9:00 A.M.**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of**  
**HOUSE BILL 785**  
**RELATING TO**  
**THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

House Bill 785 proposes to appropriate \$450,000 of general revenues in Fiscal Year 2017-2018 and Fiscal Year 2018-2019 for operating expenses and staffing costs of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD). **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget request.**

The purpose of the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Program is to educate, construct, maintain, and assist in the development of conservation plans to protect soil and water resources. Each SWCD is operated by a five-member volunteer board. HACD is an umbrella organization formed by the 16 SWCDs under Chapters 180 and 180C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and administratively attached to the Department. In each of fiscal years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017, HACD and the SWCDs received \$322,500 in general funds, appropriated by Act 84, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015. The Department notes that the SWCD Program does not have a base budget appropriation and funding would be required for the continuance of their activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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

**KEKOA KALUHIWA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**JEFFERY 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



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](mailto:HACDhawaii@gmail.com); <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/swcd/>

February 10, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

TESTIMONY ON  
HB 785: RELATING TO HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Room 325  
9:00 AM

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

I am Karen Ah Mai, Chairperson of the South Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and representing the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD), which is comprised of 16 Hawaii 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 supports HB785**, providing funding for staffing and operations of HACD. HACD greatly appreciates the support provided by the legislature and the long standing contribution by the State of Hawaii to the SWCDs.

HACD and the 16 Hawaii SWCDs are a prime example of a successful partnership between the State, County, Federal and private partnerships, with funding requested by DLNR that represent the State's share of this unique partnership. By assisting farmers and ranchers with technical support and in developing and processing conservation plans the SWCDs help to address such issues as erosion, grading and grubbing, runoff and water quality in general. We also help to provide outreach and help educate our youth and the educators who teach them. Assisting the members in our community is a priority for HACD and the SWCDs, which benefits everyone throughout the state.

**Public/Private Partnership for FY2016**

- **Federal** (cash and in kind): \$500K    **State:** \$332K    **County:** \$500K
- SWCD board members and volunteers donate in excess of 17,280 hours annually.

**Resource conservation and Protection Projects (examples)** In addition to assisting farmers, ranchers and landowners prepare and implement conservation plans; the organization seeks funding and implements projects across the State. Examples include:

- Coral Reef Initiative – Ridge to Reef Program, such as the Ag Road Project
- Assisted DLNR in the Permitting and Construction Phase of the Hanalei Project
- Watershed Based Plans, such as the Waiulaula Watershed Management Project
- 319(h) Water Quality Projects, such as the TAKO POKE Project which included multiple Best Management Practices within drainage ways mauka of Wailea/Kihei
- Moomomi Watershed Project to control and reduce soil erosion, and prevent and reduce sediment reaching the ocean waters
- Water Source Development for the Community, e.g. Kahakapao Reservoirs

**Increased need of services due to extremes in weather conditions;** SWCDs actively implement programs to protect and restore communities from natural disasters. Forecasts indicate extreme drought and flooding in future years. Examples of implemented projects include:

- Lahaina Temporary Flood Control Project
- Funding to haul water to drought impacted farmers and ranchers.

The investment by the State of Hawaii is a critical component to enable our SWCDs to continue their programs, as listed above, and will be leveraged with Federal and County funds to help make the greatest impact. With all of our SWCD Directors being volunteers, 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 respectfully request your **support in passing HB 785**.

Attached is a detailed accounting of our funding request and a brochure describing HACD activities. As an alternative to this separate appropriation bill, HACD requests that funding be placed into the DLNR base budget. Should you have any questions, please contact Michelle Watkins, HACD Executive Director, 808-230-4228.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide our input on this important matter.

## FY2018 and FY2019 HACD/SWCD YEARLY BUDGET PROPOSAL

No. Item	Total #, Hrs/ Trips/Units	Hourly Rate/ Unit Cost	Full year Funding
<b>A. <sup>1</sup>Personnel Services</b>			
Professional Staff: 40hrs/wk x 52weeks			
Conservation Specialist's (1 ea.: HI, Kauai, Maui, Oahu)	4	\$60,000.00	\$240,000.00
Executive Director	1	\$57,000.00	\$57,000.00
<b>Grand Total for Item A</b>			<b>\$297,000.00</b>
<b>B. Travel/Training (airfare, per diem, reg fees, etc.)</b>			
CS travel/training	4	\$1,200.00	\$4,800.00
<sup>2</sup> SWCD National Training- National staff to HI for training and/or SWCD rep to attend national training	16	\$1,200.00	\$19,200.00
<sup>2</sup> SWCD Travel- State HACD Quarterly Board Meetings	16	\$800.00	\$12,800.00
NACD National Meetings- HACD Rep- 2 meetings or 2 people for 1 meeting: DC, Annual & Pacific	2	\$4,000.00	\$8,000.00
HACD Travel: President, Officers, Legislative Committee Member, Exec. Director- Interisland Travel for Meetings	1	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00
<b>Grand Total for Item B</b>			<b>\$53,300.00</b>
<b>C. Operating Costs</b>			
CS Office Supplies, NRCS security clearance, advertising, etc..	4	\$1,500.00	\$6,000.00
<sup>2</sup> SWCD Office Supplies: Equipment, postage, paper, copies, reports, etc..	16	\$3,200.00	\$51,200.00
<sup>2</sup> NACD Dues-National requirement per SWCD	16	\$750.00	\$12,000.00
HACD Expenses: Office Supplies, Monthly phone&internet charges, postage, equipment, yearly D&O Insurance, etc.	1	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00
<b>Grand Total for Item C</b>			<b>\$77,700.00</b>
<b>D. CS Misc. Expenses</b>			
Administrative Fees for CS Management	1	\$22,000.00	\$22,000.00
<b>Grand Total for Item D</b>			<b>\$22,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL A-D</b>			<b>\$450,000.00</b>


<sup>1</sup> All personnel includes total benefits such as: complete medical coverage, workmans comp., TDI, liability, 401K, vac/sick leave, hourly pay etc...


<sup>2</sup> SWCD Operating Costs within DLNR budget currently \$2,250/Yr/District (Total=\$36,000/Yr): request increase to operate and pay NACD dues, attend required monthly meetings, etc.

## 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.

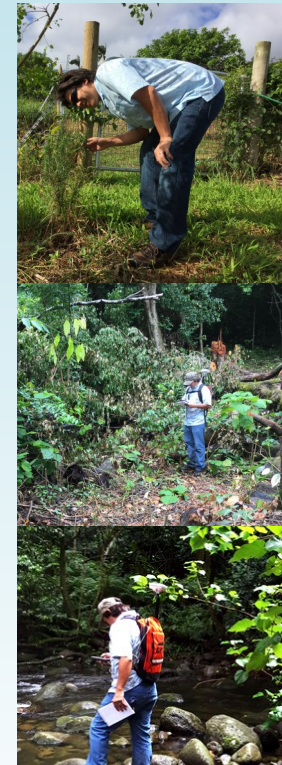
 **County of Hawai'i,**  
<http://www.hawaii-county.com/>  
 In addition to the many services it offers, Hawai'i County is a long standing supporter of the Hawai'i Island SWCDs.

### 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

### CONSERVATION EDUCATION

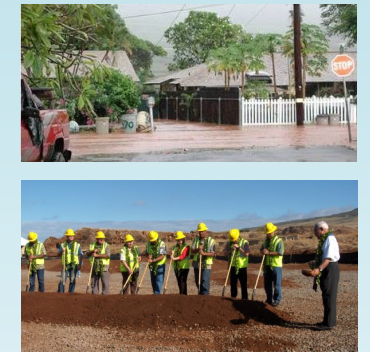
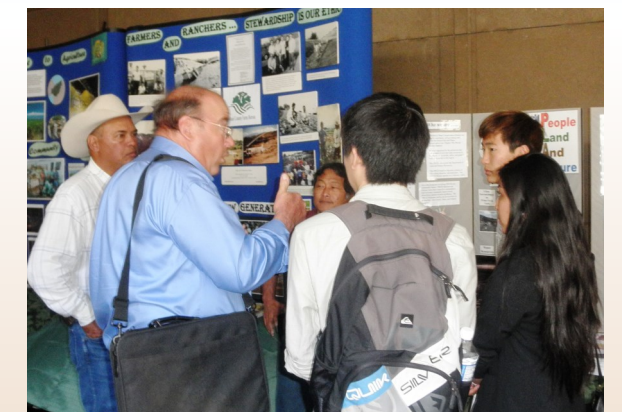


### WATERSHED PLANNING/PROJECTS



**P**eople  
**L**and  
**A**nd  
**N**ature

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH





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

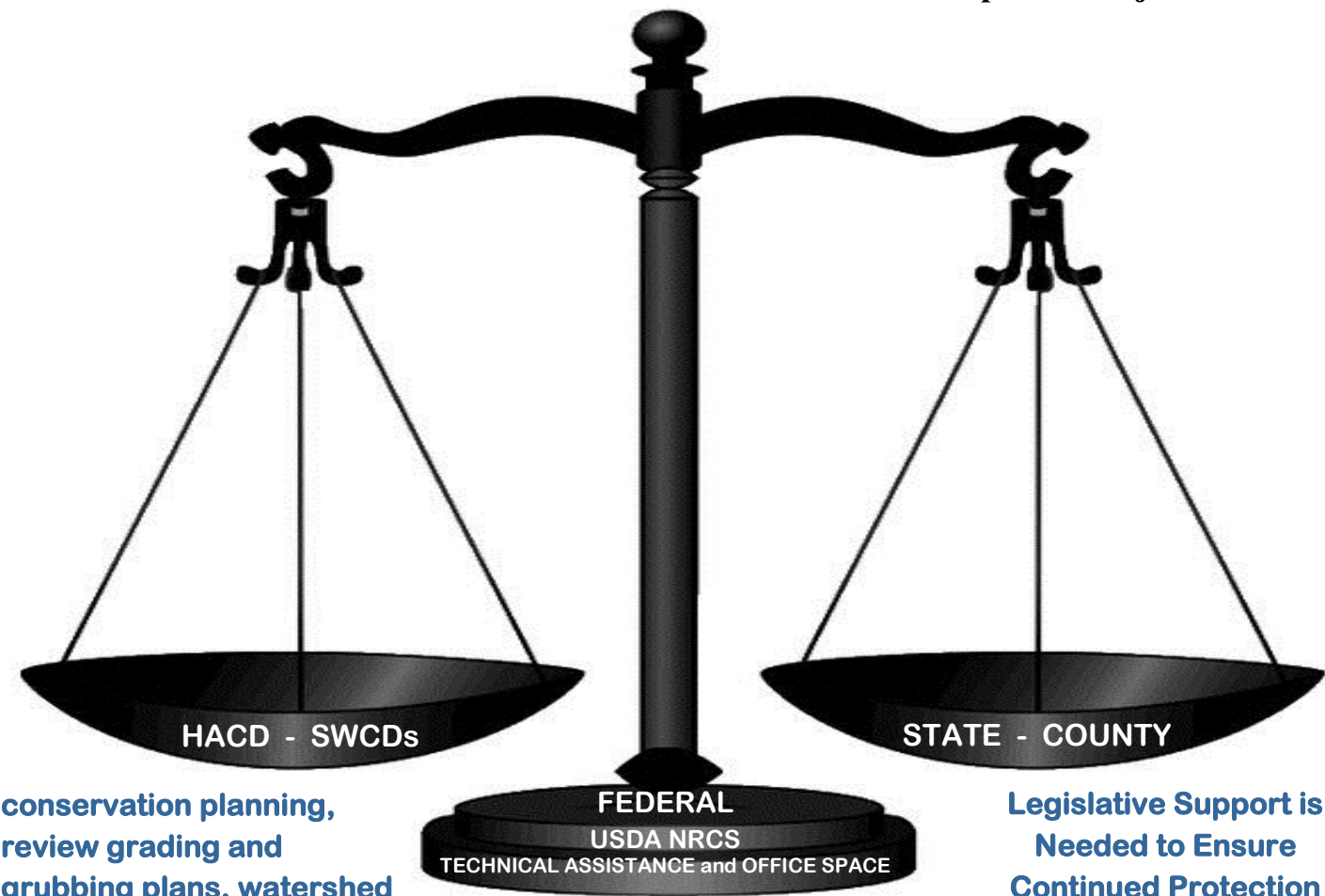


**Who we are .....**

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**

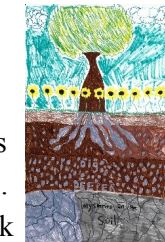


conservation planning, review grading and grubbing plans, watershed projects, conservation education, etc.

*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](mailto:hacdhawaii@gmail.com)

## SOME OF SWCDs' STATEWIDE PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

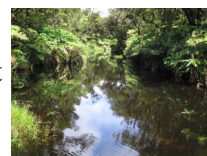
### Conservation Planning

- 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
- Kanae 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 Kealakekua 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





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 & LAND**

**FEBRUARY 10, 2017  
9:00 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 325**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 785  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

Chairperson Yamane and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 785. 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 manage 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.





Ka'u Soil and Water Conservation District  
154 Waianuenue Avenue, Room 303  
Hilo, HI 96720

February 10, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND  
TESTIMONY ON HB 785  
RELATING TO HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Room 325 / 9:00 AM

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

I am Brenda Dianne Iokepa-Moses, Chairperson of the Ka'u Soil and Water Conservation District, which is 1 of the 16 Hawaii SWCDs that make up the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD). 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.

**Ka'u SWCD strongly supports HB785**, providing funding for staffing and operations of HACD. HACD and the SWCDs greatly appreciate the support provided by the legislature and the long standing contribution by the State of Hawaii to the SWCDs.

HACD and the 16 Hawaii SWCDs are a prime example of a successful partnership between the State, County, Federal and private partnerships, with funding requested by DLNR representing the State's share of this unique partnership. By assisting farmers and ranchers with technical support and by developing and processing conservation plans, the SWCDs help to address such issues as erosion, grading and grubbing, runoff and water quality in general. We also help to provide outreach and help educate our youth and the educators who teach them. Assisting the members in our community is a priority for HACD and the SWCDs, which benefits everyone throughout the state.

The investment by the State of Hawaii is a critical component to enable our SWCDs to continue their programs and will be leveraged with Federal and County funds to help make the greatest impact. With all of our SWCD Directors being volunteers, 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 respectfully request your **support in passing HB 785**.

We need to support the agencies that help our farming communities.

Sincerely,

  
Brenda D. Iokepa-Moses

Ka'u Soil and Water Chairperson

(808) 896-3932

(808) 731-5409

Blokepamoses@gmail.com

February 10, 2017  
HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

TESTIMONY ON  
HB 785: RELATING TO HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION  
DISTRICTS

Room 325  
9:00 AM

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

My name is David Schell and I serve as a director for the Puna Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), which is 1 of the 16 Hawaii SWCDs that make up the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD). 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.

**I strongly support HB785**, providing funding for staffing and operations of HACD. HACD and the SWCDs greatly appreciate the support provided by the legislature and the long standing contribution by the State of Hawaii to the SWCDs.

HACD and the 16 Hawaii SWCDs are a prime example of a successful partnership between the State, County, Federal and private partnerships, with funding requested by DLNR representing the State's share of this unique partnership. By assisting farmers and ranchers with technical support and by developing and processing conservation plans, the SWCDs help to address such issues as erosion, grading and grubbing, runoff and water quality in general. We also help to provide outreach and help educate our youth and the educators who teach them. Assisting the members in our community is a priority for HACD and the SWCDs, which benefits everyone throughout the state

**Public/Private Partnership for FY2016**

- **Federal** (cash and in kind): \$500K    **State:** \$332K    **County:** \$500K
- SWCD board members and volunteers donate in excess of 17,280 hours annually.

**Resource conservation and Protection Projects (examples)** In addition to assisting farmers, ranchers and landowners prepare and implement conservation plans; the organization seeks funding and implements projects across the State. Examples include:

- Coral Reef Initiative – Ridge to Reef Program, such as the Ag Road Project
- Assisted DLNR in the Permitting and Construction Phase of the Hanalei Project
- Watershed Based Plans, such as the Waiulaula Watershed Management Project
- 319(h) Water Quality Projects, such as the TAKO POKE Project which included multiple Best Management Practices within drainage ways mauka of Wailea/Kihei
- Moomomi Watershed Project to control and reduce soil erosion, and prevent and reduce sediment reaching the ocean waters
- Water Source Development for the Community, e.g. Kahakapao Reservoirs

**Increased need of services due to extremes in weather conditions;** SWCDs actively implement programs to protect and restore communities from natural disasters. Forecasts indicate extreme drought and flooding in future years. Examples of implemented projects include:

- Lahaina Temporary Flood Control Project
- Funding to haul water to drought impacted farmers and ranchers.

The investment by the State of Hawaii is a critical component to enable our SWCDs to continue their programs, as listed above, and will be leveraged with Federal and County funds to help make the greatest impact. With all of our SWCD Directors being volunteers, 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 respectfully request your **support in passing HB 785**.

I appreciate this opportunity to provide our input on this important matter.

Thank you kindly.



**LATE**

February 10, 2017

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Representative Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Water & Land

**Strong support of HB 785 - Relating to the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (Makes an appropriation to the department of land and natural resources for the operational expenses and staffing costs of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts.)**

**WAL Hearing: Friday, February 10, 2016, at 9:00 a.m., in Conf. Rm. 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 785**.

**HB 785.** 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 operational expenses and staffing 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 785** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

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

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

HB 785, Relating to The Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts  
House WAL Committee  
Friday, February 10, 2017  
9:00 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

**kong2 - Crystal**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 8, 2017 7:13 AM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** alan@prloffice.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB785 on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM\*

**HB785**

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alan Gottlieb	Ponoholo Ranch Limited	Support	No

Comments:

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**waltestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2017 3:53 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** alan.takemoto@monsanto.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB785 on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM

**HB785**

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dan Clegg	Monsanto	Support	No

Comments: My name is Dan Clegg. I am the Hawaii Business Operations Lead for Monsanto. Please accept our testimony in support of this worthy program that focuses on soil and water conservation that helps farmers and ranchers statewide. Thank you.

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**LATE**

**kong2 - Crystal**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2017 7:56 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** kaimiunger@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB785 on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM

**HB785**

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keith	McCandless Ranch	Support	No

Comments: House Committee on Agriculture and the Environment Rep. Richard Creagan, Chair and Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair Friday, February 10, 2017, 8:30am State Capitol, Conference room 312 HB 1389 – Relating to Livestock Harvest Facilities My name is Keith Unger and I manage McCandless Ranch in South Kona. I am a member of Hawaii Cattlemen’s Council (HCC) and I am writing in strong support of HB 1389. Hawaii Cattlemen’s Council is the state-wide umbrella organization comprised of the four county level Cattlemen’s Associations. In a recent series of community meetings held across the state, producers identified livestock harvest and processing as one of the major bottlenecks for marketing of local beef. HCC’s mission is to serve as an advocate for Hawaii’s ranchers. In keeping with that mission, HCC has been working to address specific long and short-term needs for livestock harvest. While short-term needs are at a critical stage in some counties, specific issues are being addressed separately. Our long-term success and resilience depends upon our ability to address both needs Hawaii’s beef industry is at a crossroads as increased demand for locally-raised beef has challenged our current infrastructure’s capacity to meet the growing market. Our industry needs to prepare for this expansion. Hawaii’s ranchers are uniquely positioned to provide economic, environmental and social sustainability. Hawaii currently produces only 6% of the beef consumed within our state. With the rising demand for locally sourced food, there is much capacity to grow our local market. Hawaii ranchers provide a multitude of ecosystem services including protection of our watersheds, decreased fire load and aesthetic open spaces. By providing pasture raised beef to our communities, the beef industry supplies a healthy, nutritionally wholesome protein source at a reasonably price to our island residents. This bill will provide funding for the planning and design of a scalable harvest facility that could be used in multiple venues. Once completed, our industry will be in a stronger position to attract potential investors. Hawaii’s ranchers firmly believe in its future and the ability of agriculture to remain a relevant part of our economy. HB 1389 represents a great opportunity for Hawaii’s lawmakers to advance efforts to provide a more food secure community. I respectfully request your support of HB 1389. Sincerely, Keith F. Unger Manager McCandless Ranch

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

February 10, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

**TESTIMONY ON HB 785**  
RELATING TO HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Room 325  
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, 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. We support the position of HACD.

The Soil and Water Conservation Districts were born out of the efforts of farmers who saw the value in implementing conservation practices. No laws told them they had to do it. It was common sense. You protect the resource that grows the crops and raises the livestock that you depend on. These districts provide an excellent example of public private partnerships and how Federal, State and County governments can leverage resources to accomplish more than each can do for themselves.

Over the years, the Districts have also originated major water projects across the State bringing in Federal dollars to be matched by State resources. Today, we have two projects remaining and HACD continues to work with our Congressional Delegation to complete the Upcountry Dual line and the Lahaina Flood Control Projects. Drought mitigation is a major concern for farmers and ranchers. We are constantly looking for ways in which we can partner with USDA NRCS to implement programs in Hawaii.

While the conservation districts are most often associated with preparation and approval of conservation plans, the scope of their activities are much broader. As part of the

National Association of Conservation Districts, we have access to material that can help the state agencies meet regulatory requirements. For example, those Counties involved in MS4 or Municipal Stormwater requirements by EPA, have education requirements. Each year, there is a focus area across the country. 2017's topic is "Where does your Water shed?" educating children about where water comes from and the need to be cognizant about practices such as oil discharges from your cars that may end up in the storm drain or dumping hazardous wastes where it can end up in streams. These are programs that can be implemented by Districts as part of their outreach. By funding the Districts, you contribute to their capacity to carry out these tasks.

Another example is Soil Judging. Each year, students across the state enter a contest to test their abilities to correctly identify, evaluate, classify, and describe soil profiles and their applicability for various uses including housing. Did you know that Hawaii students have consistently placed in National competitions that take place in Oklahoma each year? Through these experiences, students have developed an interest in pursuing careers in agriculture.

HFB strongly supports the position as stated by HACD. We agree that placing this funding as a line item in the DLNR budget is prudent. We respectfully request your strong support of funding the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts and placing them as a line item in the DLNR budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.**

**COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND**  
**Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair**  
**Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair**

DATE: Friday, February 10, 2017  
TIME: 9:00AM  
PLACE: Conference Room 325

**HB 785 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS.**

Makes an appropriation to the department of land and natural resources for the operational expenses and staffing costs of the Hawaii association of conservation districts.

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, 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 four county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 150+ 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 785 as this bill provides critical funding for a vital component of agriculture in Hawaii.

The 16 Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Hawaii works with farmers and ranchers to protect and promote good soil and water management practices in the state.

While these Districts are a quasi-governmental board und the Department of Land & Natural Resources, they remain staffed through volunteer District Directors and are severely underfunded by the State. They often receive little assistance and support in their work to provide a vital resource for the people of Hawaii.

We ask that this committee support this bill, as it provides the funding the Districts need to continue their service.

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



**LATE**

**kong2 - Crystal**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2017 5:01 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** admin@kauaiconityfarmbureau.org  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB785 on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM

**HB785**

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kauai County Farm Bureau	501(c)5 ~ agricultural Not-for-profit	Support	No

Comments: Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to testify via email messaging. Kauai County Farm Bureau (KCFB) wishes to go on record strongly supporting HB785. The Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts are a necessary partner to ranchers and farmers success here in Hawaii. Mahalo for strengthening this public-private partnership. Laurie Ho, President - KCFB

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**waltestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 8, 2017 12:26 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** vangeisog001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB785 on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM

**HB785**

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
George H Van Gieson	Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments: I am a volunteer director for the Puna Soil and Water Conservation Board and a member of the Hawaii Farm Bureau. I enjoy the interaction of the Board with future farmers and ranchers on the Big Island and have gained an appreciation for the information sharing process that benefits all involved in agriculture. I support this bill.

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**Jennifer Scotti**

PO BOX 1852 Koloa 96756  
JATSco@gmail.com

February 8, 2017

TESTIMONY ON  
SB 808: RELATING TO HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Room 325  
9:00 AM

I am Jennifer Scotti an employee of 4 years with the East and West Kauai Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), which is 1 of the 16 Hawaii SWCDs that make up the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD). 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.

**I strongly support SB808/HB785**, providing funding for staffing and operations of HACD. HACD and the SWCDs greatly appreciate the support provided by the legislature and the long standing contribution by the State of Hawaii to the SWCDs.

HACD and the 16 Hawaii SWCDs are a prime example of a successful partnership between the State, County, Federal and private partnerships, with funding requested by DLNR representing the State's share of this unique partnership. By assisting farmers and ranchers with technical support and by developing and processing conservation plans, the SWCDs help to address such issues as erosion, grading and grubbing, runoff and water quality in general. We also help to provide outreach and help educate our youth and the educators who teach them. Assisting the members in our community is a priority for HACD and the SWCDs, which benefits everyone throughout the state

**Public/Private Partnership for FY2016**

- **Federal** (cash and in kind): \$500K    **State:** \$332K    **County:** \$500K
- SWCD board members and volunteers donate in excess of 17,280 hours annually.

**Resource conservation and Protection Projects** In addition to assisting farmers, ranchers and landowners prepare and implement conservation plans; the organization seeks funding and implements projects across the State. Kauai examples include:

- Assisted DLNR in the Permitting and Construction Phase of the Hanalei Valley Irrigation Intake Protection/Streambank Preliminary Investigation
- 319h funded Demonstration and Training in Critical Area Stabilization Techniques on Agricultural Roads and Unprotected Waterways



**Increased need of services due to extremes in weather conditions;** SWCDs actively implement programs to protect and restore communities from natural disasters. Forecasts indicate extreme drought and flooding in future years. Examples of implemented projects include:

- Sponsored the emergency response funding through NRCS for Hurricane Iniki, 2 million from the emergency watershed protection funds in 1992
- Received \$167,000 in emergency funding to disburse for flood damage and prevention on Kauai's North Shore in 1991

The investment by the State of Hawaii is a critical component to enable our SWCDs to continue their programs, as listed above, and will be leveraged with Federal and County funds to help make the greatest impact. With all of our SWCD Directors being volunteers, 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 respectfully request your **support in passing SB 808 / HB 785**.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide our input on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Scotti  
Conservation Specialist  
East & West Kauai SWCDs

Name  
Address  
Email

February 9, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

TESTIMONY ON  
HB 785: RELATING TO HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Room 325  
9:00 AM

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

The East Kauai Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), which is 1 of the 16 Hawaii SWCDs that make up the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD). 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.

**I strongly support HB 785**, providing funding for staffing and operations of HACD. HACD and the SWCDs greatly appreciate the support provided by the legislature and the long standing contribution by the State of Hawaii to the SWCDs.

HACD and the 16 Hawaii SWCDs are a prime example of a successful partnership between the State, County, Federal and private partnerships, with funding requested by DLNR representing the State's share of this unique partnership. By assisting farmers and ranchers with technical support and by developing and processing conservation plans, the SWCDs help to address such issues as erosion, grading and grubbing, runoff and water quality in general. We also help to provide outreach and help educate our youth and the educators who teach them. Assisting the members in our community is a priority for HACD and the SWCDs, which benefits everyone throughout the state

**Public/Private Partnership for FY2016**

- **Federal** (cash and in kind): \$500K    **State:** \$332K    **County:** \$500K
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- 319h funded Demonstration and Training in Critical Area Stabilization Techniques on Agricultural Roads and Unprotected Waterways

**Increased need of services due to extremes in weather conditions;** SWCDs actively implement programs to protect and restore communities from natural disasters. Forecasts indicate extreme drought and flooding in future years. Examples of implemented projects include:

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We appreciate this opportunity to provide our input on this important matter. Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Allan Rietow, Associate Director  
East Kauai SWCD

**waltestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 8, 2017 9:38 AM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** WailuaKaiCattleLLC@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB785 on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM\*

**HB785**

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael Fernandes	East Kauai Soil and Water District	Support	No

Comments:

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Marjorie Stanphill  
4334 Rice Street Suite 207  
Lihue, HI 96766  
Email: marjorie.stanphill@hi.nacdn.net

February 8, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

TESTIMONY ON  
HB 785: RELATING TO HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Room 325  
9:00 AM

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

I am Marjorie Stanphill, District Assistant, since 2001 for the East & West Kauai Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), which are 2 of the 16 Hawaii SWCDs that make up the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD). 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.

**I strongly support HB 785**, providing funding for staffing and operations of HACD. HACD and the SWCDs greatly appreciate the support provided by the legislature and the long standing contribution by the State of Hawaii to the SWCDs.

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**Increased need of services due to extremes in weather conditions;** SWCDs actively implement programs to protect and restore communities from natural disasters. Forecasts indicate extreme drought and flooding in future years. Examples of implemented projects include:

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The investment by the State of Hawaii is a critical component to enable our SWCDs to continue their programs, as listed above, and will be leveraged with Federal and County funds to help make the greatest impact. With all of our SWCD Directors being volunteers, 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 respectfully request your **support in passing HB 785**.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide our input on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Stanphill  
District Assistant  
East & West Kauai SWCDs



**Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.**

**COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND**  
**Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair**  
**Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair**

DATE: Friday, February 10, 2017  
TIME: 9:00AM  
PLACE: Conference Room 325

**HB 785 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS.**

Makes an appropriation to the department of land and natural resources for the operational expenses and staffing costs of the Hawaii association of conservation districts.

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, 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 four county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 150+ 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 785 as this bill provides critical funding for a vital component of agriculture in Hawaii.

The 16 Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Hawaii works with farmers and ranchers to protect and promote good soil and water management practices in the state.

While these Districts are a quasi-governmental board und the Department of Land & Natural Resources, they remain staffed through volunteer District Directors and are severely underfunded by the State. They often receive little assistance and support in their work to provide a vital resource for the people of Hawaii.

We ask that this committee support this bill, as it provides the funding the Districts need to continue their service.

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



**kong2 - Crystal**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2017 10:47 AM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** warrenmcfb@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB785 on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM\*

**HB785**

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

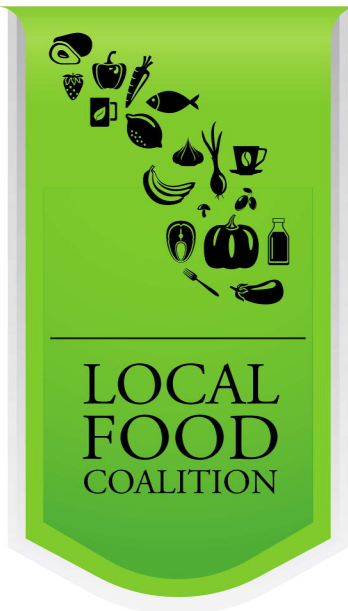
<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Warren Watanabe	Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments:

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND  
Friday, February 10, 2017 – 9:00 AM - Room 325

**RE: HB 785 - Relating to the Hawaii Association of  
Conservation Districts – In Support**

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

**The Local Food Coalition is in strong support of HB 785**, which makes an appropriation to the department of land and natural resources for the operational expenses and staffing costs of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts.

4 Ag Hawai'i

Hawai'i Aquaculture &  
Aquaponics Association

Hawai'i Association of  
Independent Schools

Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council

Hawai'i Farm Bureau  
Federation

Hawai'i Farmers' Union  
United

Hawai'i Food Industry  
Association

Hawai'i Food  
Manufacturers Association

Kohala Center

Malama Kaua'i

Maui School Garden  
Network

Ulupono Initiative

The Local Food Coalition is an organization comprising of farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawai'i's food supply.

The Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD) and the 16 Hawaii Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) are a successful partnership between the State, County, Federal and private partners. The DLNR appropriation in this bill represents the State's share of this partnership.

The funding assists farmers and ranchers with technical support, development and implementation of conservation plans, and outreach and education. All of the SWCD Directors are volunteers. The program has been of tremendous value to our communities.

We appreciate the legislature's support of the HACD. The investment by the State is vital to enable the HACD to continue its programs and will be leveraged with Federal and County funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. We ask for your favorable consideration of this measure.

Lori Lum  
808-544-8343  
[llum@wik.com](mailto:llum@wik.com)

## waltestimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 8, 2017 2:30 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** john@olsontrust.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB785 on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM\*

### **HB785**

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John C. Cross	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

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**waltestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 8:19 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** grayboy24@aol.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB785 on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM\*

**HB785**

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leslie Takayama	Waiakea Soil & Water Conservation District	Support	No

Comments:

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**Jennifer Scotti**

PO BOX 1852 Koloa 96756  
JATSco@gmail.com

February 8, 2017

TESTIMONY ON  
SB 808: RELATING TO HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Room 325  
9:00 AM

I am Jennifer Scotti an employee of 4 years with the East and West Kauai Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), which is 1 of the 16 Hawaii SWCDs that make up the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD). 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.

**I strongly support SB808/HB785**, providing funding for staffing and operations of HACD. HACD and the SWCDs greatly appreciate the support provided by the legislature and the long standing contribution by the State of Hawaii to the SWCDs.

HACD and the 16 Hawaii SWCDs are a prime example of a successful partnership between the State, County, Federal and private partnerships, with funding requested by DLNR representing the State's share of this unique partnership. By assisting farmers and ranchers with technical support and by developing and processing conservation plans, the SWCDs help to address such issues as erosion, grading and grubbing, runoff and water quality in general. We also help to provide outreach and help educate our youth and the educators who teach them. Assisting the members in our community is a priority for HACD and the SWCDs, which benefits everyone throughout the state

**Public/Private Partnership for FY2016**

- **Federal** (cash and in kind): \$500K    **State:** \$332K    **County:** \$500K
- SWCD board members and volunteers donate in excess of 17,280 hours annually.

**Resource conservation and Protection Projects** In addition to assisting farmers, ranchers and landowners prepare and implement conservation plans; the organization seeks funding and implements projects across the State. Kauai examples include:

- Assisted DLNR in the Permitting and Construction Phase of the Hanalei Valley Irrigation Intake Protection/Streambank Preliminary Investigation
- 319h funded Demonstration and Training in Critical Area Stabilization Techniques on Agricultural Roads and Unprotected Waterways

**Increased need of services due to extremes in weather conditions;** SWCDs actively implement programs to protect and restore communities from natural disasters. Forecasts indicate extreme drought and flooding in future years. Examples of implemented projects include:

- Sponsored the emergency response funding through NRCS for Hurricane Iniki, 2 million from the emergency watershed protection funds in 1992
- Received \$167,000 in emergency funding to disburse for flood damage and prevention on Kauai's North Shore in 1991

The investment by the State of Hawaii is a critical component to enable our SWCDs to continue their programs, as listed above, and will be leveraged with Federal and County funds to help make the greatest impact. With all of our SWCD Directors being volunteers, 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 respectfully request your **support in passing SB 808 / HB 785**.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide our input on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Scotti  
Conservation Specialist  
East & West Kauai SWCDs

**waltestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 8, 2017 8:40 AM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** mary.robblee@hi.nacdn.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB785 on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM

**HB785**

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary Robblee	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The agricultural community needs more than words of support from the community and elected officials. We are currently in some really strange times and who knows what will happen and how it will impact us. It would be very good to know we have the agricultural infrastructure to feed ourselves...just in case. We have a lot of people that are new to farming and farming is not easy in Kona, and we have so little soil, they need to have a resource that can help them understand the natural systems here. For instance, we have so little soil. Most people are not experienced with farming in rocks, we help them figure out how. Please help us help them, our local farmers. Without them we all go hungry. I don't like going hungry, do you? Thank you for your consideration.

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**waltestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 8, 2017 9:57 AM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** mail@kealiaranch.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB785 on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM\*

**HB785**

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sara Moore	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Genoa Starrs  
POB 411386  
Kalaheo, HI 96741  
genoastarrs@hi.nacdn.net

February 8, 2017

TESTIMONY ON  
HB 785: RELATING TO HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Room 325  
9:00 AM

I am Genoa Starrs, conservation specialist for the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD) serving the East and West Kauai Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), two of the sixteen Hawaii SWCDs. 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.

**I strongly support HB785**, providing funding for staffing and operations of HACD. HACD and the SWCDs greatly appreciate the support provided by the legislature and the long standing contribution by the State of Hawaii to the SWCDs.

HACD and the 16 Hawaii SWCDs are a prime example of a successful partnership between the State, County, Federal and private partnerships, with funding requested by DLNR representing the State's share of this unique partnership. By assisting farmers and ranchers with technical support and by developing and processing conservation plans, the SWCDs help to address such issues as erosion, grading and grubbing, runoff and water quality in general. We also help to provide outreach and help educate our youth and the educators who teach them. Assisting the members in our community is a priority for HACD and the SWCDs, which benefits everyone throughout the state

**Public/Private Partnership for FY2016**

- **Federal** (cash and in kind): \$500K    **State:** \$332K    **County:** \$500K
- SWCD board members and volunteers donate in excess of 17,280 hours annually.

**Resource conservation and Protection Projects** In addition to assisting farmers, ranchers and landowners prepare and implement conservation plans; the organization seeks funding and implements projects across the State. Kauai examples include:

- Assisted DLNR in the Permitting and Construction Phase of the Hanalei Valley Irrigation Intake Protection/Streambank Preliminary Investigation
- 319h funded Demonstration and Training in Critical Area Stabilization Techniques on Agricultural Roads and Unprotected Waterways



**Increased need of services due to extremes in weather conditions;** SWCDs actively implement programs to protect and restore communities from natural disasters. Forecasts indicate extreme drought and flooding in future years. Examples of implemented projects include:

- Sponsored the emergency response funding through NRCS for Hurricane Iniki, 2 million from the emergency watershed protection funds in 1992
- Received \$167,000 in emergency funding to disburse for flood damage and prevention on Kauai's North Shore in 1991

The investment by the State of Hawaii is a critical component to enable our SWCDs to continue their programs, as listed above, and will be leveraged with Federal and County funds to help make the greatest impact. With all of our SWCD Directors being volunteers, 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 respectfully request your **support in passing HB 785**.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide our input on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Genoa Starrs  
Conservation Specialist  
Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts

Jill Suga  
P.O. Box 424 Hanapepe, HI. 96716  
Jill.suga@gmail.com

February 9, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

TESTIMONY ON  
HB 785: RELATING TO HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Room 325  
9:00 AM

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

I am Jill Suga, Director of the East Kauai Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), which is 1 of the 16 Hawaii SWCDs that make up the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD). 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.

**I strongly support HB 785**, providing funding for staffing and operations of HACD. HACD and the SWCDs greatly appreciate the support provided by the legislature and the long standing contribution by the State of Hawaii to the SWCDs.

HACD and the 16 Hawaii SWCDs are a prime example of a successful partnership between the State, County, Federal and private partnerships, with funding requested by DLNR representing the State's share of this unique partnership. By assisting farmers and ranchers with technical support and by developing and processing conservation plans, the SWCDs help to address such issues as erosion, grading and grubbing, runoff and water quality in general. We also help to provide outreach and help educate our youth and the educators who teach them. Assisting the members in our community is a priority for HACD and the SWCDs, which benefits everyone throughout the state

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- 319h funded Demonstration and Training in Critical Area Stabilization Techniques on Agricultural Roads and Unprotected Waterways

**Increased need of services due to extremes in weather conditions;** SWCDs actively implement programs to protect and restore communities from natural disasters. Forecasts indicate extreme drought and flooding in future years. Examples of implemented projects include:

- Sponsored the emergency response funding through NRCS for Hurricane Iniki 2 million from the emergency watershed protection funds in 1992
- Received \$167,000 in emergency funding to disburse for flood damage and prevention on Kauai's North Shore in 1991

The investment by the State of Hawaii is a critical component to enable our SWCDs to continue their programs, as listed above, and will be leveraged with Federal and County funds to help make the greatest impact. With all of our SWCD Directors being volunteers, 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 respectfully request your **support in passing HB 785**.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide our input on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jill Suga  
East Kauai SWCD

## kong2 - Crystal

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 7:13 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB785 on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM\*

### **HB785**

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

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**kong2 - Crystal**

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**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2017 5:59 AM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** tkellerman@kualoa.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB785 on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM\*

**HB785**

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Taylor Kellerman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Peter Tausend  
PO Box 740  
Eleele, HI 96705  
petertausend@msn.com

February 8, 2017

TESTIMONY ON  
HB 785: RELATING TO HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Room 325  
9:00 AM

I am Peter Tausend, Chairman of the West Kauai Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), which is 1 of the 16 Hawaii SWCDs that make up the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD). 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.

**I strongly support HB 785**, providing funding for staffing and operations of HACD. HACD and the SWCDs greatly appreciate the support provided by the legislature and the long standing contribution by the State of Hawaii to the SWCDs.

HACD and the 16 Hawaii SWCDs are a prime example of a successful partnership between the State, County, Federal and private partnerships, with funding requested by DLNR representing the State's share of this unique partnership. By assisting farmers and ranchers with technical support and by developing and processing conservation plans, the SWCDs help to address such issues as erosion, grading and grubbing, runoff and water quality in general. We also help to provide outreach and help educate our youth and the educators who teach them. Assisting the members in our community is a priority for HACD and the SWCDs, which benefits everyone throughout the state

**Public/Private Partnership for FY2016**

- **Federal** (cash and in kind): \$500K    **State:** \$332K    **County:** \$500K
- SWCD board members and volunteers donate in excess of 17,280 hours annually.

**Resource conservation and Protection Projects** In addition to assisting farmers, ranchers and landowners prepare and implement conservation plans; the organization seeks funding and implements projects across the State. Kauai examples include:

- Assisted DLNR in the Permitting and Construction Phase of the Hanalei Valley Irrigation Intake Protection/Streambank Preliminary Investigation
- 319h funded Demonstration and Training in Critical Area Stabilization Techniques on Agricultural Roads and Unprotected Waterways

**Increased need of services due to extremes in weather conditions; SWCDs actively implement programs to protect and restore communities from natural disasters. Forecasts indicate extreme drought and flooding in future years. Examples of implemented projects include:**

- Sponsored the emergency response funding through NRCS for Hurricane Iniki, 2 million from the emergency watershed protection funds in 1992
- Received \$167,000 in emergency funding to disburse for flood damage and prevention on Kauai's North Shore in 1991

The investment by the State of Hawaii is a critical component to enable our SWCDs to continue their programs, as listed above, and will be leveraged with Federal and County funds to help make the greatest impact. With all of our SWCD Directors being volunteers, 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 respectfully request your **support in passing HB 785.**

We appreciate this opportunity to provide our input on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Peter Tausend  
West Kauai SWCD Chairman

Michelle Watkins  
Email: [hacdhawaii@gmail.com](mailto:hacdhawaii@gmail.com)

February 10, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

TESTIMONY ON  
HB 785: RELATING TO HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Room 325  
9:00 AM

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

I am Michelle Watkins, Executive Director of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts. HACD is comprised of 16 Hawaii Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs). 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.

**I strongly support HB785**, providing funding for staffing and operations of HACD. HACD and the SWCDs greatly appreciate the support provided by the legislature and the long standing contribution by the State of Hawaii to the SWCDs.

HACD and the 16 Hawaii SWCDs are a prime example of a successful partnership between the State, County, Federal and private partnerships, with funding requested by DLNR representing the State's share of this unique partnership. By assisting farmers and ranchers with technical support and by developing and processing conservation plans, the SWCDs help to address such issues as erosion, grading and grubbing, runoff and water quality in general. We also help to provide outreach and help educate our youth and the educators who teach them. Assisting the members in our community is a priority for HACD and the SWCDs, which benefits everyone throughout the state

**Public/Private Partnership for FY2016**

- **Federal** (cash and in kind): \$500K    **State:** \$332K    **County:** \$500K
- SWCD board members and volunteers donate in excess of 17,280 hours annually.

**Resource conservation and Protection Projects (examples)** In addition to assisting farmers, ranchers and landowners prepare and implement conservation plans; the



organization seeks funding and implements projects across the State. Examples include:

- Coral Reef Initiative – Ridge to Reef Program, such as the Ag Road Project
- Assisted DLNR in the Permitting and Construction Phase of the Hanalei Project
- Watershed Based Plans, such as the Waiulaula Watershed Management Project
- 319(h) Water Quality Projects, such as the TAKO POKE Project which included multiple Best Management Practices within drainage ways mauka of Wailea/Kihei
- Moomomi Watershed Project to control and reduce soil erosion, and prevent and reduce sediment reaching the ocean waters
- Water Source Development for the Community, e.g. Kahakapao Reservoirs

**Increased need of services due to extremes in weather conditions;** SWCDs actively implement programs to protect and restore communities from natural disasters. Forecasts indicate extreme drought and flooding in future years. Examples of implemented projects include:

- Lahaina Temporary Flood Control Project
- Funding to haul water to drought impacted farmers and ranchers.

The investment by the State of Hawaii is a critical component to enable our SWCDs to continue their programs, as listed above, and will be leveraged with Federal and County funds to help make the greatest impact. With all of our SWCD Directors being volunteers, 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 respectfully request your **support in passing HB 785**. As an alternative to this separate appropriation bill, I would like to request that funding for HACD be placed into the DLNR base budget.

I appreciate this opportunity to provide our input on this important matter.

Dr. Cindy Goldstein, Ph.D  
Aiea, Hawaii

HB 785 Relating to Hawaii Assoc of Conservation Districts - Funding  
House Water and Land Committee  
Friday, 02-10-17 9:00AM in House conference room 325

Chair Ryan Yamane and Vice Chair Sam Kong,

**Position: Support**

The Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts carries out a vital role in agricultural land stewardship. The soil and water conservation districts assist with reviewing conservation plans and some of our counties require a conservation plan before issuing grading and grubbing permits. The soil and water conservation districts receive many requests for their expertise, showing the need for their work and importance of their role in continuing their resource conservation efforts.

I support fully funding the appropriation requested in HB 785 for operational expenses, staffing costs, and other funds that may be needed to continue the good work done by soil and water conservation districts across the state. As a board member of the Oahu Resource Conservation and Development Council, another organization that carries out activities supporting sound land stewardship and soil conservation practices, the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts is deserving of continued funding for their critical work.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 785.

February 10, 2017  
HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

TESTIMONY ON  
HB 785: RELATING TO HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Room 325  
9:00 AM

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

I am Puaonaona Stibbard, HACD Conservation Specialist for the Oahu Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), which consists of 3 of the 16 Hawaii SWCDs that make up the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD). 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.

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**Public/Private Partnership for FY2016**

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- SWCD board members and volunteers donate in excess of 17,280 hours annually.

**Resource conservation and Protection Projects (examples)** In addition to assisting farmers, ranchers and landowners prepare and implement conservation plans; the organization seeks funding and implements projects across the State. Examples include:

- Coral Reef Initiative – Ridge to Reef Program, such as the Ag Road Project
- Assisted DLNR in the Permitting and Construction Phase of the Hanalei Project

- Watershed Based Plans, such as the Waiulaula Watershed Management Project
- 319(h) Water Quality Projects, such as the TAKO POKE Project which included multiple Best Management Practices within drainage ways mauka of Wailea/Kihei
- Moomomi Watershed Project to control and reduce soil erosion, and prevent and reduce sediment reaching the ocean waters
- Water Source Development for the Community, e.g. Kahakapao Reservoirs

**Increased need of services due to extremes in weather conditions;** SWCDs actively implement programs to protect and restore communities from natural disasters. Forecasts indicate extreme drought and flooding in future years. Examples of implemented projects include:

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- Funding to haul water to drought impacted farmers and ranchers.

The investment by the State of Hawaii is a critical component to enable our SWCDs to continue their programs, as listed above, and will be leveraged with Federal and County funds to help make the greatest impact. With all of our SWCD Directors being volunteers, 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 respectfully request your **support in passing HB 785**.

I appreciate this opportunity to provide our input on this important matter.

**LATE**

**waltestimony**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2017 5:08 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** laurieho1@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB785 on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM

**HB785**

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laurie Ho	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha from Kauai ~ I support the East and West Kauai Soil and Water Conservation Districts ~ they are part of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts. I wish to strongly support HB785. Mahalo.

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**kong2 - Crystal**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2017 9:11 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** legechair@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB785 on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM\*

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**HB785**

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments:

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**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2017 8:08 PM  
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**Cc:** Mchughj001@hawaii.rr.com  
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**HB785**

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John McHugh	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2017 7:40 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** cmanfredi@kaufarmandranch.com  
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**HB785**

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chris Manfredi	Hawaii Coffee Association	Support	No

Comments:

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**HB785**

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Aileen K . F. Yeh	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** dylanarm@hawaii.edu  
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**HB785**

Submitted on: 2/10/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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