

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**APRIL 4, 2018
10:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2101 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2101 HD1 SD1. 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 testify on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

ROBERT K. MASUDA
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

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

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

**Wednesday, April 4, 2018
10:30 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2101, HOUSE DRAFT 1, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

House Bill 2101, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 proposes to appropriate \$450,000 in general revenues in 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 Supplemental 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. 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.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Wednesday, April 4, 2018 — 10:30 a.m. — Room 211

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 2101 HD 1 SD 1, Relating to the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kyle Datta and I am General Partner of Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and better management of waste and fresh water. Ulupono believes that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

Ulupono strongly supports HB 2101 HD 1 SD 1, which provides funding to the Hawai'i Association of Conservation Districts (HACD), because it aligns with our goal of creating more locally produced food.

HACD plays an integral part in keeping Hawai'i's agriculture land in a quality state. HACD helps to educate farmers and ranchers via a customized conservation plan, which educates them on improving their farming techniques to minimize environmental damage. Ulupono was supportive of a successful effort by O'ahu Resource Conservation and Development Council with HACD to develop conservation plans online to expedite the approval process.

As Hawai'i's local food issues become more complex and challenging, organizations need additional resources and support to address and overcome them. We appreciate this committee's efforts to look at policies that support local food production.

We believe that by collaborating, we can help produce more local food and support an economically robust homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta
General Partner

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

HB-2101-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2018 5:12:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald Weidenbach	Testifying for Hawaii Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawaii Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association strongly supports this measure for the continued funding of the SWCD program which is critical for the Hawaii agriculture industry and the program's conservation planning functions which support the implementation of sustainable farming and land use practices in Hawaii.



Board of Directors

TESTIMONY FROM BENNETTE MISALUCHA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

President

Alan Takemoto

In Support of HB 2101, HD1, SD1

Relating to the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts

Vice-President

Joshua Uyehara

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

April 4, 2018, 10:30 a.m.

Conference Room 211

Secretary

Dawn Bicoy

Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committee:

Treasurer

Laurie Yoshida

HCIA is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture 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 economy.

Directors-at-Large

Adolf Helm

Mark Stoutemyer

Dan Clegg

Gene Harrington

HCIA **strongly supports HB 2101, HD1, SD1**, which appropriates funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the operational expenses and staff costs of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD).

President Emeritus

Kirby Kester

HACD has played a pivotal role in improving Hawaii's environment and economy through major projects and collaborative efforts with partners and government agencies. It has also provided educational and community support of conversation awareness through high school and elementary school outreach programs. However, it has struggled to keep pace with the demands of reviewing county grading permits and conservation plans with the increased population growth and land use changes.

Executive Director

Bennette Misalucha

Lack of funding has limited HACD's services to entities within priority watershed areas, where there are few farmlands. It is critical to fund HACD's work in a time when Hawaii is looking to grow its agricultural industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Bennette Misalucha

Executive Director, Hawaii Crop Improvement Association



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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

April 4, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 2101, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Room 211
10:30 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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 interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau strongly supports HB 2101, HD1, SD1, which provides 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 was founded by farmers who saw the value in implementing conservation practices. It was natural for them to protect the resources that provided nutrients for the growth of their crops and raising livestock.

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 Storm water requirements by EPA, have education requirements. Each year, there is a focus area across the country. In 2017 topic was "Where does your Water shed?". The purpose of this outreach program was to educate 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. Programs like these are adopted by each district 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.

HB-2101-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 3:32:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bonnie Marsh	Testifying for UpCountry Doctor	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB2101 HD1 SD1



Testimony for
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, April 4, 2018, 10:30 a.m. Room 211

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

HB 2101 HD1 SD1 Relating to the Hawaiʻi Association of Conservation Districts

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

This testimony is in **SUPPORT** of HB 2101 HD1 SD1 to provide funding for the sixteen districts that comprise the Hawaiʻi Association of Conservation Districts to support the multiple demands that are placed on the staff as a result of the volume of requests from land use changes and occupational changes.

I am Lynn McCrory, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs for Pulama Lanai. I am also a commission member of the Molokai – Lanai Soil and Water Conservation District, representing the island of Lānaʻi. Pulama Lanai is the entity that was set up by Larry Ellison to work with the community and government as we move the island of Lanai toward sustainability.

As a part of Maui County, we concur that the number of grading and grubbing permit applications that are to be reviewed for protection of the environment will result in a longer review period and the resulting slowing of economy enhancing projects. Add the new farmers that have land being made available to them and require not only a conservation plan but also possibly a farm plan. They will be left to determine how this can be done without the assistance of the Soil and Water Conservation staff that is needed to get them started becoming a part of our food sustainability for Hawaii. New farmers need to understand the various components of farming and how they all work together for them to succeed.

If we want a growing economy and food sustainability, we must provide additional funds to the staff that have the knowledge and can do the work to assist those who want to be a contributing part of the Hawaiʻi economy.

We humbly ask that you SUPPORT HB 2101 HD1 SD1. Mahalo!

Me ke aloha pumehana
With warm aloha,

Lynn P. McCrory
Senior Vice President of Government Affairs



SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Wednesday, April 4, 2018 – 10:30 AM - Room 211

RE: HB 2101 HD1 SD1 - Relating to the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts – In Support

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

The Local Food Coalition is in strong support of HB 2101 HD1 SD1, 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.

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) play an important role in improving farm practices and ensuring the protection of Hawai'i's environment. They assist farmers and ranchers with technical support, development and implementation of conservation plans, and outreach and education. All of the SWCD Directors are volunteers. The demands of the HACD have increased and the legislature's support of the \$450,000 request is vital to enable the HACD to continue its programs.

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

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

HB-2101-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 7:34:13 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kekai Quartero	Testifying for K&R Enterprises	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2101-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 11:58:49 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB-2101-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 8:53:04 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Ah Mai/HACD	Testifying for HACD	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2101-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 6:31:01 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2101-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 8:48:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
irene plunkett	Testifying for HFUU	Support	No

Comments:

I Strongly support Bill HB2101, Mahalo

HB-2101-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 7:26:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB-2101-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 6:59:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randyl Rugar	Testifying for Sanctuary of Mana Ke`a Gardens	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2101-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 7:36:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jimmy Gomes	Testifying for Ulupalakua Ranch	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2101-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 8:55:29 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Manfredi	Testifying for Hawaii Coffee Association	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawaiian coffee industry is conservatively ranked by USDA as Hawaii's second highest-value crop (\$48.8MM; 2016). The Hawaii Coffee Association's (HCA) mission is to represent all sectors of the Hawaiian coffee industry, including growers, millers, wholesalers, roasters and retailers located throughout the State of Hawaii. The HCA's primary objective is to increase awareness and consumption of Hawaiian coffees. A major component of HCA's work is the continuing education of members and consumers.

The HCA strongly supports this measure.

Mahalo for your support of **HB2101 HD1 SD1**

HB-2101-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 9:08:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kali Arce	Testifying for Molokai Lanai Soil Water Conservation District	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senator Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz,

As a volunteer Director of the Molokai Lanai Soil Water Conservation District (MLSWCD) I am testifying to support HB2101 HD1 SD1. Molokai has a small but viable agricultural industry. A large number of Hawaiian homestead agricultural leases are undeveloped and have potential to get into production. One of the resources on Molokai that would help lessees with technical resources is the MLSWCD which is one of the first steps for an individual into entering in an agricultural venture. They provide farm planning consultation and a farm plan is required to turn in to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for all agricultural leases. Without this service, many lessees are unable to prepare one on their own. They also are the only ones that provide land and grading permits in Maui County. The MLSWCD is also vital to Lanai whom is served by Molokai District's one staff person. My husband and I also have a DHHL agricultural lease in Hoolehua that we rely on help from MLSCWD. I urge you and your committee to please support HB2101 HD1 SD1.

Mahalo,

Rogerene "Kali" Arce

HB-2101-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2018 10:30:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB-2101-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 12:54:10 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Toole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Sarah Toole, my address is 1128 Ala Napunani St. 96818, and I am a political science student at UH Manoa.

I support this bill. Conservation is a long term investment, and I'm grateful the state is ready to make that investment.

HB-2101-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 3:15:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Crawford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2101-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 3:04:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keith Ranney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2101-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 3:18:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2101-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 3:27:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William South	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2101-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 3:48:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ken Stover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2101-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 4:00:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Helmut Klauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2101-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 5:03:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB-2101-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 6:17:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dennis F Lokmer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Need funds for conservation districts's operation

HB-2101-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 6:25:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Terez Amato Lindsey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2101-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 3:45:27 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suellen Barton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2101-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 7:42:10 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sunny Savage-Luskin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2101-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 9:26:03 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hawaii is like the garden of eden. It can support us all eating delicious, healthy food. We need to support mother earth to take care of us. Healthy soil and water are crucial to our survival.

HB-2101-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 6:52:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB-2101-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 8:30:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Timothy Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2101-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 8:38:45 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judy R Tokuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments: