

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, February 28, 2018
10:45 A.M.**

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2561, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

Senate Bill 2561, Senate Draft 1 proposes to appropriate \$450,000 of 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.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**FEBRUARY 28, 2018
10:45 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2561 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 Senate Bill No. 2561 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.





Board of Directors

TESTIMONY FROM BENNETTE MISALUCHA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

President

Alan Takemoto

In Strong Support of SB2561, SD1 Relating to the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts

Vice-President

Joshua Uyehara

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
February 28, 2018, 2018, 10:45 a.m.
Conference Room 211

Secretary

Dawn Bicoy

Chair Dela Cruz and members of the committee:

Treasurer

Laurie Yoshida

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (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 SB2561, 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. Hawaii's farmers should have the opportunity to be advised on measures related to conservation and environmental stewardship. It is especially 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



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Wednesday, February 28, 2018 — 10:45 a.m. — Room 211

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports SB 2561 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 SB 2561 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



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. Cherish the Earth.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Wednesday, February 28, 2018 10:45AM Room 211

In **SUPPORT** of **SB 2561 SD1** Relating to the Hawai'i Association of Conservation Districts

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

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, a member of the Common Good Coalition, **supports SB 2561 SD1**, which would allocate funding to Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) for the operational expenses and staffing costs of the Hawai'i Association of Conservation Districts (HACD).

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i, which started as an outdoors and hiking club, has been active in nature conservation in the islands for 50 years. We are committed to supporting efforts that not only allow people to explore and enjoy these beautiful islands we call home, but also protect and preserve them from the various man-made environmental threats (e.g., increasing impacts from tourism, damaging agricultural practices, climate change).

This measure would allow for the support of these important efforts:

- **We must support farmers to maximize food production in Hawai'i.** We rely much too heavily agricultural imports, with around 90% of our food coming from the mainland or abroad. *This must change.* Now is the time to increase self-sufficiency and food independence across the islands.
- **We must restore, preserve, and protect our soil and water resources.** Soil health and water conservation are critical in maintaining and preserving flourishing ecosystems and healthy communities in Hawai'i. Every effort must be taken to support both as they are critical to our way of life.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify **in support of SB 2561 SD1**, which will provide the funding necessary for HACD to continue their important work.



LATE

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

February 28, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2561, SD1
RELATING TO HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Room 211
10:45 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 SB 2561, SD 1, 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.



Testimony for
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, February 28, 2018, 10:45 a.m. Room 211

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

SB 2561 SD1 Relating to the Hawai'i Association of Conservation Districts

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

This testimony is in **SUPPORT** of SB2561 SD1 to provide funding for the sixteen districts that comprise the Hawai'i 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 Lāna'i. 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 Hawai'i economy.

We humbly ask that you SUPPORT SB2561 SD1. Mahalo!

Me ke aloha pumehana
With warm aloha,

Lynn P. McCrory
Senior Vice President of Government Affairs

SB-2561-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 8:33:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2018 10:45:00 AM

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

Comments:



SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Wednesday, February 28, 2018 – 10:45 AM - Room 211

RE: SB 2561 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 SB 2561 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 Hawaii'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 legislature's support of this \$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

SB-2561-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 2:11:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2018 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Testifying for Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	No

Comments:

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

SB 2561sd1, Relating to The Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts
Senate WAM Decision Making Hearing
Wednesday, February 28, 2018
10:45 am
Conference Room 211

Testimony by: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support

Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Senate WAM 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

LATE

SB-2561-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 3:52:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2018 10:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-2561-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2018 6:00:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2018 10:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-2561-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 7:17:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2018 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



Cindy Goldstein, PhD
Ag Matters, LLC
98-814 C Kaonohi St
Aiea, HI 96701

SB 2561, S.D.1
RELATING TO THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, February 28, 2018, 10:45 a.m. Conference Room 211

Chair Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

Position: **Support SB2561, S.D.1**

As a board member of the Oahu Resource Conservation and Development Council which works with farmers to develop soil conservation plans I support SB2561, S.D. 1. There is a need to provide funding for operational expenses and staffing costs for the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts. The soil and water conservation districts provide an essential role in reviewing the conservation plans developed by Oahu RC&D and by farmers that use the Oahu RC&D online 808 Conservation Planner.

HACD reviews required conservation plans and grading permits and has a significant workload which can cause delays in this required step.

As a board member of the statewide Hawaii Farm Bureau I support funding for the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts because this bill provides funding to continue to work with farmers to implement farm practices that reduce erosion and improve on farm sustainable farming practices. HACD carries out projects to improve water quality, fight invasive species, and conserve water use. Funding HACD also provides support for education of farmers, students, and community members in the importance of conservation practices.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2561, SD1.

SB-2561-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 6:51:46 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2018 10:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-2561-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 8:55:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2018 10:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-2561-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 10:22:38 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2018 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Watkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

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

I strongly supports SB 2561,SD 1, which provides funding for staff and operations of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD).

HACD was created by farmers who saw the value in implementing conservation practices. They saw the importance in protecting the resource provides nutrients for crops and livestock.

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 the topic was "Where does your Water shed?", which educated 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.

Mahalo!

Les Takayama

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

I strongly supports SB 2561,SD 1, which provides funding for staff and operations of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD).

HACD was created by farmers who saw the value in implementing conservation practices. They saw the importance in protecting the resource provides nutrients for crops and livestock.

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 the topic was “Where does your Water shed?”, which educated 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.

Mahalo!

Richard Ogoshi	Jason T Okuhama	Yarrow Flower	Kaohi Mokuhalii
David Schell	Melvin Matsuda	Diane Chuensanguansat	Kylie Matsuda-Lum
Barry Brennan	Susan Schenck	Clifford Migita	Dianne Girard
Randy Muller	Laila Jayyousi	Alex Franco	Donald Sommer
James Tavares	Gregory Friel	Alvin Tsuruda	John Giblin Jr
Phil Becker	Joe McClure	Moana Among	Joni Kamiya
Efren Abellera	Sandi Kato-Klutke	Blaine Grassman	Randy Cabral
Karol Haraguchi	Annette Lee	John Gordines	Kathie Stewart
Joseph Silva	Mark Phillipson	Gregory Williams	Luly Unemori
Kenneth Kamiya			