



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

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:

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