

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



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

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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  
WATER AND LAND**

**Wednesday, January 31, 2018  
2:45 P.M.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

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

Senate Bill 2561 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

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND**

**JANUARY 31, 2018  
2:45 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2561  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

Chairperson Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2561. 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.



**SB-2561**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 2:29:49 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura	Maui County Council	Support	No

Comments:

Please provide appropriation to support the work of the conservation district.

**SB-2561**

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 10:53:01 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of this measure and the programs implemented by the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts. Mahalo.

Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.

Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu



Testimony for  
Committee on Water and Land  
Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 2:45 p.m. Room 224

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

**SB 2561 Relating to the Hawaiʻi Association of Conservation Districts**

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

This testimony is in **SUPPORT** of SB2561 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 SB2561. Mahalo!

Me ke aloha pumehana  
With warm aloha,

Lynn P. McCrory  
Senior Vice President of Government Affairs

**SB-2561**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:54:44 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ronald Weidenbach	Hawaii Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association	Support	No

Comments:

The HAAA strongly supports SB2561 for the continued funding of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts. This important program provides professional expertise that supports local farmers, including aquaculture and aquaponics farmers, with the assessment, planning, and submission of Conservation Plans to ensure help sustainable farming practices which will preserve our valuable land and water resources. It also provides assistance to government agencies in meeting certain regulatory requirements such as those under EPA. oversight. This small but effective program is a very beneficial and prudent use of State funds.



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

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND  
SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR  
SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, VICE CHAIR**

DATE: Wednesday, January 31, 2018  
TIME: 2:45 PM  
PLACE: Conference Room 224

**SB 2561 – 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 Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

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

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports** SB 2561 as this bill provides critical funding for a vital component of agriculture in Hawaii.

The 16 Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Hawaii work 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 under 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.



Karen Ah Mai  
Phone: (808) 955-7882  
[HACDKaren@gmail.com](mailto:HACDKaren@gmail.com)

Wednesday, January 31, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

TESTIMONY ON  
SB 2561: RELATING TO HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Room 224  
2:45 PM

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

I am Karen Ah Mai, Legislative Liaison for 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 SB2561**, 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.

**Public/Private Partnership for FY2017**

- **Federal** (cash and in kind): \$520K    **State:** \$332K    **County:** \$500K
- SWCD board members and volunteers donate in excess of 17,500 hours annually.
  - Multiply this out by a nominal \$25/hr consulting rate and this adds \$437.5k to the value of the partnerships;
- State funding (332K) then becomes a modest investment, leveraging every volunteered hour, State, County and Federal dollar to over \$1.789 million of agricultural based services.

**Resource conservation and Protection Projects (examples)**

A conservation plan (similar to a blueprint for a house) is a blueprint for managing ranches, farms and conservation lands. This plan not only helps the owner of the plan, but also helps to protect neighboring properties from runoff and streams from being polluted by inadvertent practices.

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.

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:

- On Maui, Water Source Development for the Community, e.g. Kahakapao Reservoirs
- On Kauai, Assisted DLNR in the Permitting and Construction Phase of the Hanalei Project
- On Hawaii, watershed-based plans like the Waiulaula Watershed Management project
- On Oahu, EPA-funded 319(h) Water Quality Projects, such as the Ala Wai Watershed Project to control and reduce soil erosion, and prevent and reduce sediment reaching the ocean waters
- On Molokai, the Moomomi Watershed Project with the same objectives

**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 SB 2561**.

As an alternative to this separate appropriation, **HACD REQUESTS THAT THE FUNDING BE PLACED IN THE DLNR BASE BUDGET**. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 808-955-7882.

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

Michelle Watkins  
Phone: (808) 214-5388  
[HACDhawaii@gmail.com](mailto:HACDhawaii@gmail.com)

Wednesday, January 31, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

TESTIMONY ON  
SB 2561: RELATING TO HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Room 224  
2:45 PM

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, 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 SB2561**, 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.

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**Resource conservation and Protection Projects (examples)**

A conservation plan (similar to a blueprint for a house) is a blueprint for managing ranches, farms and conservation lands. This plan not only helps the owner of the plan, but also helps to protect neighboring properties from runoff and streams from being polluted by inadvertent practices.

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.

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:

- On Maui, Water Source Development for the Community, e.g. Kahakapao Reservoirs
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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:

- 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 SB 2561**.

As an alternative to this separate appropriation, **I WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST THAT THE FUNDING BE PLACED IN THE DLNR BASE BUDGET**. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 808-214-5388.

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

**SB-2561**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 1:38:14 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brenda Iokepa-Moses	HACD	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support SB2561 it's vital Hawaii Association of Conservation District get funding so they can continue to support the farming community.



## **Board of Directors**

TESTIMONY FROM BENNETTE MISALUCHA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### President

Alan Takemoto

### **In Strong Support of SB2561**

### **Relating to the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts**

### Vice-President

Joshua Uyehara

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

January 31, 2018, 2:45 p.m.

Conference Room 224

### Secretary

Dawn Bicoy

Chair Rhoads 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**, 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

**SB-2561**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 12:56:50 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary Robblee	Kona Soil and Water Conservation District	Support	No

Comments:

Good day. I work for the Kona SWCD and boy, do I wish we could help more people but as it is I am a one person operation, with a volunteer board of directors. This is an operation that cannot afford to pay me for a 40 hour week. We use a payroll service and between that and health and dental insurance 25% of our funding is used. So I work a 35 hours week. It is OK for now but soon my hours may have to be cut again. Some people ask, why don't I take a cut in pay if I want to work 40 hours. Whether I work 35 or 40 there is still a cut in pay. I have not received a pay increase in since early 2007, then all heck broak loose in the economy and we have not recovered, not if I am still living under that pay cut. I could spend my time trying to find and improve revenue streams but then I am a running a business and I guess I could be paid to start a business or I could be paid to help local farmers and ranchers. That is kind of what it boils down to, in my opinion.

Thank you for considering this funding and the benefit it will provide our local agricultural producers.

Sincerely,  
Mary Robblee

**SB-2561**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 9:05:29 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

<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:

**SB-2561**

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 8:05:36 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Hannah Lutgen	Maui Soil & Water Conservation District	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. The Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts provides excellent service and conservation planning to farmers, ranchers, foresters across the state. We need to support HACD for their continued efforts to preserve our precious natural resources.



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

SB 2561, Relating to The Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts  
Senate WTL Committee  
Wednesday, January 31, 2018  
2:45 pm  
Conference Room 224

Testimony by: Larry Jeffs  
Position: Support

Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Senate WTL 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

**From:** [Alyssa Fujii](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Monday, January 29, 2018 1:02:44 PM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly supports SB 2561, 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!

**From:** [Jeanne Herbert](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Monday, January 29, 2018 12:32:39 PM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

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

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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!

**From:** [Susan Mulkern](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Monday, January 29, 2018 12:15:53 PM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

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

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Mahalo!

**From:** [John Gordines](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Monday, January 29, 2018 12:14:45 PM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

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

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Mahalo!

**From:** [Reid Yoshida](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Monday, January 29, 2018 11:54:25 AM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly supports SB 2561, 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!

**From:** [Sarah Rice](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Monday, January 29, 2018 11:14:19 AM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

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Mahalo!

**From:** [Kevin Mulkern](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Monday, January 29, 2018 2:51:40 PM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly supports SB 2561, 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!



**From:** [Mark Phillipson](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Monday, January 29, 2018 10:57:44 AM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

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

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Mahalo!

**From:** [Clyde Fukuyama](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Monday, January 29, 2018 10:33:56 AM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly supports SB 2561, 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.

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Mahalo!

**From:** [Stephanie Mock](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Monday, January 29, 2018 10:28:38 AM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly supports SB 2561, 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.

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Mahalo!

**From:** [Terry Sekioka](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Monday, January 29, 2018 10:02:02 AM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly supports SB 2561, 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.

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Mahalo!

**From:** [John Beaton](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Monday, January 29, 2018 9:51:22 AM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly supports SB 2561, 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!

**From:** [PHIL BECKER](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Monday, January 29, 2018 9:47:53 AM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly supports SB 2561, 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!

**From:** [Stephen Stefanko](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Monday, January 29, 2018 9:42:37 AM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

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

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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!

**From:** [Laila Jayyousi](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Monday, January 29, 2018 3:18:07 PM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

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

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Mahalo!



**From:** [Luly Unemori](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Monday, January 29, 2018 3:30:26 PM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly supports SB 2561, 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.

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Mahalo!

**From:** [Dvorah Henderson](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Monday, January 29, 2018 3:34:09 PM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly supports SB 2561, 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.

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Mahalo!

**From:** [Clark Hashimoto](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Monday, January 29, 2018 4:25:44 PM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

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

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Mahalo!

**From:** [Joan Gannon](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Monday, January 29, 2018 4:57:22 PM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

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

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Mahalo!

**SB-2561**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:08:50 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kanoë Malani		Support	No

Comments:

The Soil and Water Conservation Districts are an invaluable resource in conservation education, planning, and technical assistance for the local community. Please support the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts.

**From:** [Brenda Iokepa-Moses](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Monday, January 29, 2018 6:13:45 PM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

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

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Mahalo!

**From:** [Jerry Nishek](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Monday, January 29, 2018 6:40:19 PM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

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Mahalo!

**From:** [Sarah Styan](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Monday, January 29, 2018 8:35:09 PM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

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Mahalo!



**From:** [Jeffrey McCall](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Monday, January 29, 2018 10:17:46 PM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

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Mahalo!

**From:** [Joni Kamiya](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 30, 2018 12:10:30 AM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

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

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Mahalo!

**From:** [Yuki Lei Sugimura](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 30, 2018 2:12:27 AM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

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Mahalo!

**From:** [Fay Allison](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 30, 2018 2:24:40 AM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

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

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Mahalo!

**From:** [Jeff McConnel](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 30, 2018 7:24:52 AM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

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Mahalo!

**SB-2561**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 10:40:36 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kainoa Casco		Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2561**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 1:37:42 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Randy Cabral		Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2561**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 5:29:57 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
J Ashman		Support	No

Comments:



**LATE**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND  
Wednesday, January 31, 2018 – 2:45 PM - Room 224

**RE: SB 2561 - Relating to the Hawaii Association of  
Conservation Districts – In Support**

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard and Members of the  
Committee:

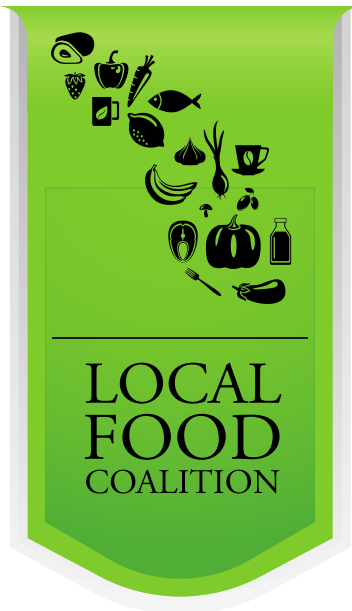
**The Local Food Coalition is in strong support of SB 2561**, which makes an appropriation to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the operational expenses and staffing costs of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts.

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](mailto: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

**LATE**

**SB-2561**

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 6:36:41 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2018 2:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**From:** [Joseph Lorusso](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 30, 2018 8:46:48 PM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

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Mahalo!



**From:** [James Tavares](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 30, 2018 8:50:20 PM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly supports SB 2561, 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!

**From:** [Keaka Lee](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 31, 2018 12:15:46 AM

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**LATE**

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly supports SB 2561, 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.

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Mahalo!

**From:** [Yvonne M Hanato-Wells](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Monday, January 29, 2018 10:08:12 PM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

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

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Mahalo!

**From:** [Donald Sommer](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Monday, January 29, 2018 4:50:19 PM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

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

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Mahalo!

**From:** [Efren Abellera](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Monday, January 29, 2018 4:19:49 PM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

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

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Mahalo!



**From:** [Emily Taaroa](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Monday, January 29, 2018 10:33:09 AM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

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Mahalo!

**From:** [Leslie Hanawahine](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Monday, January 29, 2018 10:00:03 AM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

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Mahalo!

**From:** [Mary Robblee](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT SB 256.  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 30, 2018 12:43:18 PM

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

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

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