From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, February 03, 2014 11:18 AM
То:	waltestimony
Cc:	jeff@kaanapaliland.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB1916 on Feb 5, 2014 09:15AM

#### HB1916

Submitted on: 2/3/2014 Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2014 09:15AM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments: I am a current Director of the West Maui Soil & Water Conservation District. I ask for your support of this bill as it will ultimately benefit communities throughout the State by effectively allowing the SWCDs to become a relevant and efficient resource to the communities when addressing land/soil and water resources - especially as it relates to agriculture.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, February 03, 2014 12:37 PM
То:	waltestimony
Cc:	dan.clegg@monsanto.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB1916 on Feb 5, 2014 09:15AM

#### HB1916

Submitted on: 2/3/2014 Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2014 09:15AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Dan Clegg	Vice Chair - Central Maui Soil and Water Conservation District	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, Please support HB1916. I am one of the volunteer directors of the Central Maui Soil and Water conservation district. The passage of HB1916 is very important to the people of our community. This bill will help support the soil and water conservation practices in our state.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, February 03, 2014 12:59 PM
То:	waltestimony
Cc:	Mchughj001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB1916 on Feb 5, 2014 09:15AM

#### HB1916

Submitted on: 2/3/2014 Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2014 09:15AM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments: Aloha Representatives, it is crucial to support this bill because it provides funding for employees of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts to interface with the Cooperators in the Districts. Without funding the Districts cannot provide conservation planning to the SWCD cooperators.

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NEIL ABERCROMBIE GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH P.O. Box 3378 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378 GARY L. GILL ACTING DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

In reply, please refer to: File:

#### COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

#### HB 1916, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Testimony of Gary L. Gill Acting Director of Health

> February 5, 2014 9:15 a.m.

Department's Position: The Department of Health support the intent of this bill and would like to offer
some suggestions.

3 Fiscal Implications: This bill proposes to appropriate an unspecified amount of funds from the general

4 revenues of the State of Hawaii for the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this bill is to protect Hawaii's natural environment by

6 providing funding to the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts to support conservation projects

7 and programs, and services to farmers and ranchers. The department supports this bill's environmental

8 protection purpose, but offers the following suggestions.

9 The projects and programs carried out by the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts 10 complement the efforts of the department by helping to improve water quality and address pollution 11 sources. In addition, information collected by the districts included in conservation plans, if provided to 12 the department, would assist in implementing the statutorily mandated Total Maximum Daily Load and 13 Polluted Runoff Control programs. Therefore, the department supports the proposed appropriation for 14 the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts, but suggests that amendments be added to this bill to 15 include methods for the conservation plans to be evaluated for overall effectiveness. Specifically, the 16 *Promoting Lifelong Health & Wellness* 

1	department suggests an amendment that would require the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts
2	to provide conservation plans to the department, upon request. Ideally, the results of their work should
3	be shared with the department and other affected agencies to help maximize statewide efforts to reduce
4	pollution and improve water quality.
5	The department believes that increased funding to the Hawaii Association of Conservation
6	Districts can help multiple agencies meet their objectives, allow for greater coordination among
7	environmental programs, and more efficient use of State resources.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, February 03, 2014 2:33 PM
То:	waltestimony
Cc:	lynhowe1946@yahoo.com
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB1916 on Feb 5, 2014 09:15AM*

### HB1916

Submitted on: 2/3/2014 Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2014 09:15AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Lyn Howe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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# Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts P O Box 1411 Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

February 3, 2014

#### Testimony in Support of HB 1916

Aloha Chair Evans, Vice Chair Lowen, and fellow WAL Committee Members

My name is Wes Nohara. I am the Legislative Chair for the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD). We represent the 16 Soil & Water Conservation Districts, its 80 volunteer Board Members, Associate board members, the communities and the people throughout the State of Hawaii.

Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) were formed as a result of the great dust bowl of the Early 1930s. Congress passed an emergency act forming the Soil Erosion Service, what is known today as the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS-USDA). While the Federal program was technically sound, the conservation practices were not successful at the local level. Thus in 1936 congress passed the "Standard District Act" encouraging States to form Conservation Districts to help implement best management practices at the local level. Hawaii enacted Chapter 180 in 1945 enabling the formation of Hawaii's 16 SWCDs.

Today there are about 3,000 SWCDs throughout the United States that effectively implement and promote conservation practices in partnerships with Federal Govt, State Govt, County Govt and their local communities.

It is the SWCDs "grass roots" structure, true integrated partnerships, and streamlined programs that make us effective. We operate by bringing the various entities (Federal, State, County and the communities) together to implement conservation practices that conserve and protect our natural resources, help agriculture, improve the environment and protect people's lives and property. We are effective at what congress asked us to do; that is to implement local programs that protect our natural resources and our people.

Unfortunately, it is that same grass roots structure that gets us very little appreciation and respect at the State level. I am here today to testify in support of HB 1916, which if passed, will fund our need for technical staff support. Prior to December 31, 2013; we had four (4) State wide job positions titled: Conservation Specialist (CS).

Page 2 Wes Nohara Testimony in Support of SB2295

The funding for these (4) positions was cut by State Dept of Health on December 31, 2013. The loss of these CS staff members has caused back logs of conservation plans and programs on Oahu and the Big Island. This hurts the landowners, the farmers, the environment and the economy. Kauai and Maui have managed to seek temporary funding to keep CS staff employed. But without permanent funding these positions will also be lost.

The SWCDs believe in the strength of partnerships. We believe that by working together we can accomplish a lot more (quicker, cheaper and more effectively). We believe that we represent the interest of our entire State, and serve our people via our knowledge, commitment and expertise at the local level.

Our Conservation Specialist positions are entry level (untrained). In the spirit of partnerships, we receive training and technical support from NRCS. Our Federal NRCS partners provide office space, computers, telephone, field transportation vehicles, office and technical equipment. The SWCD's provide supervision, technical guidance and management support. Some of the County Govts provide funding for administrative /technical staff and operational costs (for County grading and grubbing permits).

In return, our SWCD volunteers and staff work to serve the people of Hawaii. We try not to get bogged down with barriers between our partners, but instead focus on the best interest of our local communities and our people.

Over the years we have lost significant funding support from the State of Hawaii, due to budget constraints. Yet over the years we have continued to receive millions of dollars from Federal and County programs to improve our communities. This recent cut by DOH I believe is a result of an internal determination of what is best for my department and not seeing the bigger picture of what is best for the people of Hawaii.

In the meantime, the SWCDs are left to find the money and resources to get the job done. I am here today to ask for your support for HB 1916 and to help us serve our people of Hawaii.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Wesley M. Nohara Legislative Chair Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, February 04, 2014 7:28 AM
То:	waltestimony
Cc:	gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB1916 on Feb 5, 2014 09:15AM*

### <u>HB1916</u>

Submitted on: 2/4/2014 Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2014 09:15AM in Conference Room 325

	Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
ſ	Alan Gottlieb	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	No

Comments:

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NEIL ABERCROMBIE GOVERNOR OF HAWAII





WILLIAM J. AILA, JR. CHAIRPERSON BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

> ESTHER KIA'AINA FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM EPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT 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 WILLIAM J. AILA, JR. Chairperson

Before the House Committee on WATER & LAND

Wednesday, February 5, 2014 9:15 A.M. State Capitol, Conference Room 225

#### In consideration of HOUSE BILL 1916 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

House Bill 1916 proposes to appropriate an unspecified amount of general revenues in Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-2015 for staffing and operating costs of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD). The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget request.

The purpose of the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Program is to educate, construct, maintain, and assist in the development of conservation plans to protect soil and water resources. Each SWCD is operated by a five-member volunteer board. HACD is an umbrella organization formed by the 16 SWCDs under Chapters 180 and 180C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and administratively attached to the Department. HACD and the SWCDs will receive a total of \$76,000 in FY 2013-2014 toward their operating expenses through the LNR 141 Program. Other required funds for their operation and implementation of projects must be sought in the form of grants from other agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, February 04, 2014 9:26 AM
То:	waltestimony
Cc:	ashman.janet@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB1916 on Feb 5, 2014 09:15AM

### HB1916

Submitted on: 2/4/2014 Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2014 09:15AM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments: Please support agriculture by passing this very necessary bill to fund the island-wide soil and water conservation districts that help farmers plan and implement conservation measures. Thank you.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, February 04, 2014 9:36 AM
То:	waltestimony
Cc:	swhalen@harc-hspa.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB1916 on Feb 5, 2014 09:15AM

#### HB1916

Submitted on: 2/4/2014 Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2014 09:15AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Stephanie A Whalen	Hawaii Agriculture Research Center	Support	No

Comments: Conservation planning and implementation of plans at the producer level is critical. Plans are required of every lessee. Federal level funding for this has been significantly reduce over the years. As farming sizes have been reduced from a few large scale farms to many small ones more plans are needed. This is one of the pillars on which good and sustainable farming is based. Please understand this critical need and provide continuous funding for this need so viable farming can develop! Thank you for this opportunity to provide input.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Randy Cabral Hilo, Hawaii

#### HB 1916: Relating to Appropriation for Hawaii Assoc of Conservation Districts House Committee on Water and Land Wednesday, February 05, 2014 State Capitol Room 325, at 9:15 a.m.

Position: Strongly Support

Chair Evans, Vice Chair Lowen, and Members of the House Committee on Water and Land,

My name is Randy Cabral and I was born and raised in Hilo.

I support HB 1916, for the appropriation of funds for the Hawaii association of conservation districts to assist with its staffing and operating costs.

I have been involved in farming and ranching for over 40 years and have been a Director with the various SWCD's for over 30 years.

HACD and the SWCD's provide a vital service to the farmers and ranchers of Hawaii by helping to develop conservation plans that address issues such as soil erosion, water quality, irrigation, nutrient management and many others.

Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony.

Aloha,

Randy Cabral



Cindy Goldstein, Ph. D Industry Relations Manager DuPont Pioneer Waialua Parent Seed, Kekaha Parent Seed Kunia Research Center, Waimea Research PO Box 520 Waialua, HI 96791

### HB 1916: Relating to Appropriation for Hawaii Assoc of Conservation Districts House Committee on Water and Land Wednesday, February 05, 2014 State Capitol Room 325, at 9:15 a.m.

Position: Support appropriation

Chair Evans, Vice Chair Lowen, and Members of the House Committee on Water and Land,

DuPont Pioneer has worked with soil and water conservation districts to develop and implement soil conservation plans at our four locations in Hawaii, We support funding for the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts to allow continuation of soil and water conservation district planning and programs.

DuPont Pioneer employs approximately 350 people in a wide range of types of jobs on Oahu and Kaua'i. Our farm management practices are carried out with the application of science and technology, and innovative farming techniques, including the use of soil and water conservation management tools. Our extensive planting of cover crops to reduce soil erosion, put nutrients back in the soil, and suppress weeds are all part of sustainable stewardship practices taught by soil and water conservation district programs.

The soil and water conservation districts are called upon to review a large volume of conservation plans and county grading permits every year with diminishing resources. There is often a delay in review of plans by the districts because of the large numbers of requests received. Funds appropriated through this bill will provide funding for soil and water conservation districts that work with farmers and ranchers, as well as non-farm entities. Current administration through the Department of Health has limitations.

We encourage appropriation of funds to the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts to assist with staffing and operating costs for these important environmental stewardship projects while sustainable funding mechanisms are put in place.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, February 04, 2014 10:04 AM
То:	waltestimony
Cc:	ray.foster@monsanto.com
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB1916 on Feb 5, 2014 09:15AM*

### <u>HB1916</u>

Submitted on: 2/4/2014 Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2014 09:15AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Raymond Foster	Molokai Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

# McCall Flower Farm, Inc.

Growers of Specialty Cut Flower Since 1993

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in favor of continued funding for the Hawaii Soil and Water Conservation Districts. As a small farmer in Volcano, I have found the Districts to be crucial to my ability to farm and support their continued funding.

Sincerely,



McCall Flower Farm, Inc. Mail to: P.O. Box 837 Ship to: 96-1029 Center Road Pahala, HI 96777 Phone (808) 928-6456 Toll Free 1-877-554-3300 Fax (808) 928-9016 Toll Free 1-877-554-3305

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, February 04, 2014 11:12 AM
То:	waltestimony
Cc:	brenda@kaucoffeemill.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB1916 on Feb 5, 2014 09:15AM

### <u>HB1916</u>

Submitted on: 2/4/2014 Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2014 09:15AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Brenda lokepa-Moses	Ka'u Soil and Water Conservation Chairperson	Support	No

Comments: Please support this bill it is very important for farmers to have this resource available to them.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, February 04, 2014 11:31 AM
То:	waltestimony
Cc:	HawaiisAgriculturalPartnerships@msn.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB1916 on Feb 5, 2014 09:15AM

### HB1916

Submitted on: 2/4/2014 Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2014 09:15AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Hawaii's Agricultural Partnerships	Non Profit	Support	No

Comments: Chair Evans, Vice Chair Lowen & Mambers of the Committee 4 Ag Hawaii supports HB1916 4 Ag Hawaii is a non-profit 501[c] [3] corporation established as a public-private partnership focused on goals that include: promoting the agricultural economic welfare of Hawai'i and its counties; conducting agricultural economic; educational & media programs, and fostering statewide interest for responsible agricultural economic development of our islands.

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# MONSANTO CO. 94-520 KUNIA ROAD KUNIA, HAWAII 96759

#### TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

#### FEBRUARY 5, 2014

## TESTIMONY ON HB 1916 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Chair Evans and committee members:

My name is Alan Takemoto, Community Affairs Manager for Monsanto Hawaii.

We **<u>support</u>** HB 1916 which appropriates funds for the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD). The HACD is one of the most important organizations that assist farmers and ranchers in maintaining and improving their agricultural lands. They provide a valuable land stewardship program that farmers and ranchers can utilize to develop a soil and water conservation plan that protects the natural resources overall. These plans are often times required of farmers and ranchers to qualify for state and federal programs. The HACD has been well underfunded and needs additional funds to better service Hawaii's agricultural community.

We strongly support HB 1916 that gives the HACD the adequate funding that is necessary to support Hawaii's farmers and ranchers. Thank you.



February 4, 2014

Representative Cindy Evans, Chair Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair House Committee on Water and Land Hawaii State Capitol, 415 S. Beretania St. Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Evans, Vice Chair Lowen and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association (HAAA) strongly supports HB 1916, "Making an Appropriation to the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts." The soil and water conservation districts assist farmers and ranchers to improve their farming and ranching practices, conserve soil and water, and comply with environmental regulations.

Especially critical to HAAA's membership is the service of the soil and water conservation districts in reviewing county grading permits and farm conservation plans. Without these reviews, and the advice and assistance that the soil and water conservation districts provide, essential permits will be harder to obtain and the process will take much more time. It will become more difficult for new farmers to start their farms, and for established farmers to expand.

The soil and water conservation districts contribute greatly to Hawaii's efforts towards greater food self-sufficiency, while helping to ensure that these efforts are consistent with the protection of Hawaii's environment. Please ensure that the soil and water conservation districts can continue to perform their essential functions by passing HB 1916.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter of great importance to our membership.

Sincerely,

To rederick M. Mencher

Frederick M. Mencher for Ronald Weidenbach, President Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, February 04, 2014 12:45 PM
То:	waltestimony
Cc:	afrancokaupo@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB1916 on Feb 5, 2014 09:15AM

### HB1916

Submitted on: 2/4/2014 Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2014 09:15AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Alex Franco	Maui Cattle Company	Support	No

Comments: It is important to the cattle industry that we are able to secure needed funding for Soil and Water Conservation districts

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, February 04, 2014 1:03 PM
То:	waltestimony
Cc:	laurieho1@hawaiiantel.net
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB1916 on Feb 5, 2014 09:15AM

#### HB1916

Submitted on: 2/4/2014 Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2014 09:15AM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments: I strongly support HB 1916. The Soil and Water Conservation Districts are vital to the entire working of providing technical & financial assistance to farmers and ranchers in the state of Hawaii. I urge you to support the Hawaii Association of SWCDs. They are friends of Hawaii's agriculture.

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

### February 5, 2014

#### HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

#### TESTIMONY ON HB 1916 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

### Room 325 9:15 AM

Aloha Chair Evans, Vice Chair Lowen, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,832 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.

**HFB strongly supports HB1916**, which seeks an appropriation for the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts to assist with its staffing of Conservation Specialists.

The Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) are mandated by HRS §180. The SWCD is comprised of volunteer directors that are closely tied to Island communities. Many of these SWCD directors are also farmers, ranchers and members of HFB. They understand the issues related to land use, stewardship, resource management and agriculture.

The 16 SWCDs assist the agricultural communities throughout the entire State. They help farmers and ranchers develop and process conservation plans and address issues relating to erosion, water quality, agricultural water, and grading and grubbing plan reviews.

State of Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) has historically funded districts \$207,000 annually, for the staffing of Conservation Specialists. Effective December 31, 2013, DOH totally eliminated these funds and has not provided any replacement funding. Thus there is a backlog of conservation plans throughout parts of the State (particularly Oahu).

Under these tough economic times, the SWCDs funding continues to get squeezed at the State, County and Federal levels. The requested funds, while nominal are vitally important for farmers, ranchers, agricultural landowners, birds and animals, the environment and the present and future citizens of the State of Hawaii.

Since many SWCD Directors are volunteers, SWCDs take pressure off county planning departments and alleviating backlogs. In working through public-private partnerships SWCDs provide free engineering services for low-impact projects. These cost savings are reflected in lower food and foliage production costs that are ultimately saved by consumers and make Hawaii's producers more competitive in the marketplace.

HFBF considers the SWCDs a vital partner in Hawaii's agricultural Industry and our Island communities.

#### Please pass HB1916.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure of critical importance.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, February 04, 2014 2:44 PM
То:	waltestimony
Cc:	jasonmoniz73@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB1916 on Feb 5, 2014 09:15AM

#### HB1916

Submitted on: 2/4/2014 Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2014 09:15AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Jason Moniz	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Most public and private agricultural lease agreements require lessees to have conservation plans in place. Without the funding of this program there would be no entity to design and approve these plans which would result in ranches and farms defaulting on their lease agreements.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, February 04, 2014 4:06 PM
То:	waltestimony
Cc:	mark.phillipson@syngenta.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB1916 on Feb 5, 2014 09:15AM

#### HB1916

Submitted on: 2/4/2014 Testimony for WAL on Feb 5, 2014 09:15AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Mark Phillipson	Hawaii Crop Improvement Association	Support	No

Comments: THe Hawaii Crop Improvement Association strongly supports SB 2295. While using less than 10 percent of the available agricultral land in the state of Hawaii, members all have in place soil conservation plans. We strongly encourage all agricultural operation of the value of the conservation plan and support of the conservation districts helps meet that objective.

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