DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR OF HAWAII





STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of SUZANNE D. CASE Chairperson

Before the House Committee on WATER & LAND

Friday, February 9, 2018 10:00 A.M. State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of **HOUSE BILL 2101** RELATING TO THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

House Bill 2101 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.

SUZANNE D. CASE

CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E. DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT ENGINEERING ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

LAND STATE PARKS

DAVID Y. IGE Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

1428 South King Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512 Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

FEBRUARY 9, 2018 10:00 A.M. CONFERENCE ROOM 325

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

Chairperson Yamane and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2101. 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.



HB-2101

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 10:58:32 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill which makes an appropriation to the Dept. of Land and Natural Resources for the operational expenses and staffing costs of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts.

HB-2101

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 9:24:18 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I work for the Kona SWCD. I am their only staffer. I have not had a pay increase since 2007. That is 11 years. Do you know what has increased since then? Virtually every single one of my expenses. Please help us. Not only would I enjoy eating but help in the office would be great too.

I believe you had a pay increase since then, haven't you. A 36% increase in 2009, wow, that would have been awesome. How lucky for you guys. I know after the 36% increase you had a 5% decrease that lasted from 2009-2011. Oh wait, that did not affect legislators just department heads and executive positions. Whew, you guys dodged a bullet on that one.

Yes, you have set up HRS Ch180 to require counties pay the SWCDs so I could blame them for not having a raise in so long. Well, why couldn't you have provided us with additional funding in all of those years? I know, too busy giving yourself raises (see previous paragraph).

Yes, I am very frustrated with you people saying things like farmers are important because your actions do not match your words. Those kinds of things have a new name, a "Trumpism". The old name was "misrepresentation of beliefs", or "lie". Take your pick.

I will explain again, farmers, ranchers and forest land owners are very important people. In many ways more important than you. Not because they help sustain a lifestyle many of us enjoy but because of them we get to eat. What a novel idea being able to acquire food for a reasonable cost. Why are the people who help the people who feed us given virtually nothing. OK, two thousand dollars is not nothing but darn near close to it. Why have you, year after year, not been there to help people who help those that feed us? Why is that?

Good day

.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND Friday, February 9, 2018 — 10:00 a.m. — Room 325

Ulupono Initiative <u>Strongly Supports</u> HB 2101, Relating to the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, 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 <u>strongly supports</u> **HB 2101**, 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



Testimony for House Committee on Water and Land Friday, February 09, 2018, 10:00 a.m. Room 325

Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair Representative Chris Todd, Vice Chair

HB 2101 Relating to the Hawai'i Association of Conservation Districts

Dear Chair Yamane and Members of the Committee:

This testimony is in **SUPPORT** of HB 2101 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 HB 2101. Mahalo!

Me ke aloha pumehana With warm aloha,

Lynn P. McCrory Senior Vice President of Government Affairs



COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair Rep. Chris Todd, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 9, 2018

TIME: 10:00 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 325

HB 2101 – 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 Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, 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** HB 2101 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.









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

Friday, February 9, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

TESTIMONY ON SB 2101: RELATING TO HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Room 325 10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, 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 SB2101, 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 2101**.

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.

<u>HB-2101</u> Submitted on: 2/8/2018 6:49:51 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
winsome williams	Korean Natural Farmer	Support	No

<u>HB-2101</u> Submitted on: 2/8/2018 7:28:09 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

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

Board of Directors

TESTIMONY FROM BENNETTE MISALUCHA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

President
Alan Takemoto

In Support of HB 2101
Relating to the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts

Vice-President

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Joshua Uyehara

February 9, 2018, 10:00 a.m.

Conference Room 325

Secretary

Dawn Bicoy

Chair Yamane and members of the committee:

Treasurer

Laurie Yoshida

HCIA is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy economy.

Directors-at-Large
Adolf Helm

Mark Stoutemyer Dan Clegg Gene Harrington HCIA **strongly supports HB 2101**, 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

Kilby Kestel

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, Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

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

Friday, February 9, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

TESTIMONY ON HB 2101: RELATING TO HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Room 325 10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, 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 HB2101, 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.

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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 HB 2101**.

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

HB2101, Relating to The Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts
House WAL Committee
Friday, Feb. 9, 2018
10:00 am
Conference Room 325

Testimony by: Larry Jefts Position: Support

Chair Yamane, and Members of the House WAL Committee:

I am Larry Jefts, owner and operator of Larry Jefts 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

<u>HB-2101</u> Submitted on: 2/8/2018 10:02:09 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

<u>HB-2101</u> Submitted on: 2/8/2018 11:14:23 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

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

<u>HB-2101</u> Submitted on: 2/8/2018 11:41:10 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

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

<u>HB-2101</u> Submitted on: 2/8/2018 12:55:17 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Helmut Klauer	A'a Li'i Farm	Support	No

HB-2101

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 11:42:59 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tova		Support	No

Comments:

Honorable Committee Members,

I am writing in support of HB2101. The SWCD are unsung heros in our community putting countless volunteer hours into protecting our land and water. I have partnered in one capacity or another with the West Maui District for the past 12 years and have found members to be very knowledgable, proactive and committed to the cause. Please fund the districts at a higher level so that they can sustain the important work they do.

Respectfully, Tova Callender, Kihei Resident

<u>HB-2101</u> Submitted on: 2/7/2018 10:28:57 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leslie Takayama		Support	No

HB-2101

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 11:08:57 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Reyes		Support	No

Comments:

I fully support the funding of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts for all they do in the State of Hawaii.

<u>HB-2101</u> Submitted on: 2/8/2018 7:17:39 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

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

<u>HB-2101</u> Submitted on: 2/8/2018 7:46:36 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kanoe Malani		Support	No

Comments:

Please support the HACD.

<u>HB-2101</u> Submitted on: 2/8/2018 11:07:06 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maureen Datta		Support	No

<u>HB-2101</u> Submitted on: 2/8/2018 11:05:27 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anna Barbeau	self	Support	No

Comments:

Coserve conserve conserve.

<u>HB-2101</u> Submitted on: 2/8/2018 11:14:10 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John NAYLOR	N/A	Support	No

<u>HB-2101</u> Submitted on: 2/8/2018 12:06:31 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

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

<u>HB-2101</u> Submitted on: 2/8/2018 12:57:30 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Neil Vonhof		Support	No

<u>HB-2101</u> Submitted on: 2/8/2018 1:03:02 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tracy E Mills		Support	No

<u>HB-2101</u> Submitted on: 2/8/2018 1:47:54 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Steacy	HFUU	Support	No

HB-2101

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 2:59:34 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing	
Rene Siracusa	Malama O Puna	Support	No	

Comments:

Malama O Puna is a 501(c)(3) environmental nonprofit. We fully recognize the beneficial and important work of the Conservation Districts and support their increased funding so that they can continue to expand that work to meet the public demand.

Mahalo.

<u>HB-2101</u> Submitted on: 2/8/2018 2:24:26 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

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

HB-2101

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 2:11:50 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing	
Janet Pappas		Support	No	ı

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

Please make an appropriation for the 7 operational expenses and staffing costs of Hawaii's 8 association of conservation districts. Their work is critical to improving the conservation of water and other resources on our islands which are critical to farmers and local agriculture. A sustainable future will not happen by chance. Funding and planning are required.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas

Aiea, Hawaii

<u>HB-2101</u> Submitted on: 2/8/2018 2:25:39 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing	
Michael Williams	Pueo Farm	Support	No	

Comments:

These conservation districts are good for Hawai'i, pplesse fund them. Thanks.

From: John Gordines

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 12:03 PM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly supports HB 2101, 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: Alvin Tsuruda

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 12:24 PM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly supports HB 2101, 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: Barry Kim

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 2:02 PM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly supports HB 2101, 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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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: Annette Lee

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 12:01 PM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: David Rietow

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 1:20 PM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: David Schell

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 12:34 PM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: Joe McClure

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 12:33 PM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101

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From: John A H Tomoso

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 11:57 AM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: Karol Haraguchi

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 12:29 PM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101

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From: Lawrence Nagasawa

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 12:55 PM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: Luly Unemori

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 12:52 PM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee:

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: Mark Phillipson

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 12:09 PM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: Melvin Matsuda

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 1:51 PM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: Paula Carroll

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 1:50 PM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

_ _ _

From: Phil Becker

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 11:56 AM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: Randy Cabral

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 12:29 PM

To: waltestimony
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From: Randy Yokoyama

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 12:29 PM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101

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From: Robert Paull

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To: waltestimony
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From: Susan Mulkern

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 1:23 PM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101

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From: Tom Mendes

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 1:38 PM

To: waltestimony
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From: Tom Shigemoto

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To: waltestimony
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From: Keith Yap

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 2:42 PM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101

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From: William Uemura

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 2:41 PM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101

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From: steve Stefanko

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 2:45 PM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101

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From: Mark Fukui ·

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 2:50 PM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101

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From: Laurie Ho

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 3:11 PM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101

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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 8, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

TESTIMONY ON HB 2101 RELATING TO HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Room 325 10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, 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 interest of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau strongly supports HB 2101, 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.



<u>HB-2101</u> Submitted on: 2/8/2018 3:49:19 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Briana Hurley		Support	No

<u>HB-2101</u> Submitted on: 2/8/2018 4:44:23 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	l estifier Position	Present at Hearing
DONNIE BECKER		Support	No



<u>HB-2101</u> Submitted on: 2/8/2018 4:46:05 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Martha Lind		Support	No



<u>HB-2101</u> Submitted on: 2/8/2018 4:48:18 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lars Lind		Support	No



<u>HB-2101</u> Submitted on: 2/8/2018 5:21:34 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Olson		Support	No



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



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND Friday, February 9, 2018 – 10:00 AM - Room 325

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

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd and Members of the Committee:

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



<u>HB-2101</u> Submitted on: 2/8/2018 6:55:14 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry		Support	No



<u>HB-2101</u> Submitted on: 2/8/2018 7:04:28 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan Armstrong		Support	No



<u>HB-2101</u> Submitted on: 2/8/2018 8:45:57 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lois Crozer		Support	No

Comments:



<u>HB-2101</u> Submitted on: 2/8/2018 10:57:54 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2018 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

From: Mae Nakahata

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 5:12 PM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101



Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly supports HB 2101, 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: James Tavares

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 4:50 PM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101



Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly supports HB 2101, which provides funding for staff and operations of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD).

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: Philippe Visintainer

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 3:31 PM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101



Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly supports HB 2101, 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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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: Aileen Yeh

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 7:55 PM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101



Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly supports HB 2101, which provides funding for staff and operations of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD).

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: dianne girard

Sent: Friday, February 9, 2018 5:39 AM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101



Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly supports HB 2101, 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: Frederick Mencher

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 11:59 PM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101



Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly supports HB 2101, 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: Helene Lileikis

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 6:56 PM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101



Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly supports HB 2101, 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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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: Jeffrey McCall

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 8:28 PM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101



Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly supports HB 2101, which provides funding for staff and operations of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD).

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: Kevin Mulkern

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 5:26 PM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101



Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly supports HB 2101, which provides funding for staff and operations of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD).

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: Loreto Obra

Sent: Friday, February 9, 2018 6:07 AM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101



Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly supports HB 2101, which provides funding for staff and operations of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD).

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: Jerry Ornellas

Sent: Friday, February 9, 2018 7:54 AM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101



Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly supports HB 2101, which provides funding for staff and operations of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD).

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: Blaine Grassman

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 5:30 PM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101



Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee:

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: Emily Taaroa

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 12:12 PM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101



Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee:

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: Leslie Hanawahine

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 6:04 PM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101



Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee:

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: Luana Beck

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2018 2:57 PM

To: waltestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2101



Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly supports HB 2101, which provides funding for staff and operations of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD).

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