

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2145

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 09 2018

RE: S.B. No. 2561
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2018
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Water and Land, to which was referred S.B. No. 2561 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to make an appropriation to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the operational expenses and staffing costs of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources; Department of Agriculture; Maui County Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura; Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu; Pūlama Lāna'i; Hawaii Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association; Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.; Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts; Hawaii Crop Improvement Association; Maui County Farm Bureau; Local Food Coalition; Hawaii Coffee Association; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; and forty individuals.

Your Committee finds that the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts is composed of sixteen districts representing every community on all major islands of Hawaii. Existing law authorizes the Soil and Water Conservation Districts to operate as government subdivisions to educate the public and construct and maintain conservation projects and programs in

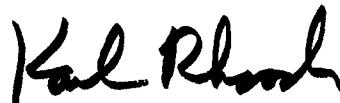


Hawaii. Soil and Water Conservation Districts have worked to improve Hawaii's environment and economy through collaborative efforts with partners and government agencies that have brought millions of dollars to Hawaii to improve farm practices, reduce erosion, improve ocean and drinking water quality, fight invasive species, improve public safety, protect property, conserve water, and strengthen the economy. The Soil and Water Conservation Districts also provide educational and community support for conservation awareness. The Districts participate in resource conservation and development projects and statewide high school programs and also introduce conservation principles in elementary schools. However, the Soil and Water Conservation Districts do not have a base budget appropriation under the Department of Land and Natural Resources' budget. Therefore, this measure provides the necessary funding for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts to continue their important activities.

Your Committee has amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water and Land that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2561, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2561, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Water and Land,

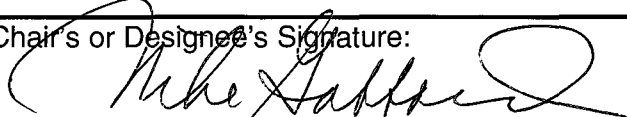


KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Ninth Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Water and Land
WTL

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 2561	WTL, WAM	JAN. 31, 2018		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310		
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
INOUE, Lorraine R.				✓
RIVIERE, Gil	✓			
THIELEN, Laura H.	✓			
TOTAL	4	—	—	1
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted		<input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted		
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy	

*Only one measure per Record of Votes