

East & West Kauai
Soil & Water Conservation Districts



2019 ANNUAL REPORT



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East & West Kaua'i Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD)

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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR

Aloha!

I am pleased to acknowledge the tremendous work of the East and West Kaua'i Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Your mission is evident as you continuously seek solutions towards sustainability and natural resource conservation.

Every year, a new stewardship theme is chosen and provided by your organization in partnership with the National Association of Conservation Districts. This year's theme, "Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper," offers a great opportunity for us all to reflect where our food comes from and why healthy soils lead toward a healthier life. That's because soil is the foundation for many items we use every day. Healthy soils play a vital part in producing our food, clean water, clothes, homes, and more.

On behalf of the people of Kaua'i and Ni'ihau, I extend a big mahalo to the East and West Kaua'i Soil and Water Conservation Districts for your commitment to conservation. Your work makes a significant impact in the protection of our natural resources, and also inspires us all to do our part to ensure that the decisions we make will benefit our land and its people for generations to come.

With warmest aloha,

Derek S. K. Kawakami

Mayor, County of Kaua'i



A Message of Aloha

East & West Kaua'i SWCD

Aloha

It is our pleasure to extend our warmest aloha to our conservation partners, supporters, and friends and to report our activities and accomplishments for fiscal year 2019.

Over time, the role of the Districts has expanded beyond soil and water conservation to include the following activities:

- * Review and approve resource conservation plans for soil erosion control and water conservation on agricultural lands
- * Advise land users about the agricultural exemption to the Kaua'i County Sediment and Erosion Control Ordinance
- * Participate in EPA and State Department of Health non-point source pollution programs
- * Support initiatives that seek to protect and maintain irrigation systems
- * Promote natural resource protection and conservation outreach programs

Our Districts are locally led grassroots organizations, guided by unpaid volunteers who unselfishly contribute their time and effort.

With support from conservation partners, we strive together to preserve natural resources and enhance the quality of life on Kaua'i.

Please enjoy our annual report.

With warmest aloha,



Ed Kawamura, Jr., Chairperson
East Kaua'i Soil and Water
Conservation District



Peter Tausend, Chairperson
West Kaua'i Soil and Water
Conservation District



Conservation planning. Erosion control. Water quality. Watershed Planning. Community outreach.

Founded in 1953, the East and West Kaua'i Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) are two of sixteen conservation districts in Hawaii and 3,000 districts nationwide.

The function of Conservation Districts is to use available technical, financial and educational resources to help local land users conserve soil, water and other natural resources. In addition to the traditional mission of soil and water conservation, Kaua'i SWCDs are involved in a wide variety of related activities, including erosion control plan reviews of agricultural lands, reviewing and approving conservation plans in partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), supporting farmers and ranchers in their effort to obtain government funding for installing conservation practices, involvement in the County's Sediment & Erosion Control Ordinance, control of non-point source pollution, watershed planning, wildlife habitat preservation, and conservation education.

Hawai'i's Conservation Districts are self-governing sub-units of the State government, authorized by and operating under Chapter 180 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes. For administrative purposes, the Conservation Districts are placed under the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). Each Conservation District is governed by an unpaid board of five directors: three elected by agricultural land owners and two appointed by the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Directors are assisted by Associate Directors. With funding from the State of Hawaii and the County of Kaua'i, Kaua'i's SWCDs have paid staff consisting of two Conservation Specialists and a part-time District Assistant. Hawai'i's sixteen Conservation Districts have formed the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD) to support and promote natural resource conservation statewide.

The NRCS is the Conservation Districts' prime conservation partner and technical resource agency. In addition to the NRCS, Conservation Districts work closely with and receive support from the DLNR, County of Kaua'i, Department of Water, State Legislature, County Council, HACD, UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, State Agriculture Department, Garden Island Resource Conservation and Development (GIRC&D), and the Hawai'i Farm Bureau.



Visit our **NEW** website for more information on Conservation planning, District projects, FREE farm items, and useful resources you can use on your land.

WWW.KAUAISWCD.ORG



East and West Kaua'i Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Facebook—@EWKSWCD
Instagram—Kauai_SWCD



Sediment & Erosion Control Ordinance

County of Kauaʻi + East & West Kauaʻi SWCD

What is the Sediment and Erosion Control Ordinance & How can you get an Agricultural Exemption?

Purpose of Chapter 22—"Sediment and Erosion Control Ordinance," Article 7—Grading, Grubbing, and Stockpiling

The purpose is to provide standards to safeguard the public health, safety and welfare; to protect property; to control soil erosion and sedimentation by setting standards for grading, grubbing and stockpiling; and to protect historic properties and burial sites in the County of Kauaʻi.

Who is affected by this ordinance?

Anyone who does grading, grubbing, and/or stockpiling (> 1 acre, 100 cubic yards of material, and/or > 5 feet in vertical height or depth) must comply with the ordinance. The Kauaʻi County Department of Public Works enforces the ordinance and issues necessary permits.

How do I qualify for an agricultural exemption?

You must have:

1. A conservation plan approved by the relevant Soil and Water Conservation District
2. A review by the State DLNR's Historic Preservation Division
3. An agricultural exemption form from Public Works

What is a Conservation Plan?

There are many types of conservation plans, some are more comprehensive than others. For an agricultural exemption, the plan should emphasize soil conservation practices that would: control sedimentation and erosion, not alter general drainage patterns, protect natural resources, and respect historic properties. Conservation plans are usually written by SWCD or USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) planners.

How long will it take to get a conservation plan?

The amount of time varies depending on the workload of the NRCS and whether your plan is



What is...?

Grading: excavation or fill, or any combination thereof.

Grubbing: any act by which vegetation or materials, including, but not limited to, trees, timber, shrubbery, plants, concrete, or asphalt are dislodged or uprooted from the surface exposing bare ground.

Stockpiling: temporary open storage of soil, sand, gravel, rock or other similar material in excess of five hundred (500) cubic yards upon any premises.

Historic property: any building, structure, object, area, or site, including heiau and underwater sites, that is significant in the history, architecture, archaeology or culture of the state, its communities, or the nation.

Agricultural operation: any operation where livestock or any crop is being raised for sale, profit, and as a regular business (subsistence farming, agricultural hobbies, or educational, botanical, and research operations may be considered on a case-by-case basis).

given high priority. Because of the high demand for conservation plans, lands that are highly vulnerable or lands eligible for federal cost-share programs are often prioritized.

What are the limits of a conservation plan?

You must comply with all relevant federal, state, and county regulations. The agricultural exemption only pertains to the areas and practices contained in your conservation plan. If your activities change, you must get your plan modified. If your land is sold, the conservation plan does not transfer to the new owners. The Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) will not approve plans for those with unresolved environmental violations. Resolution of those violations must be completed first.

Who reviews and approves conservation plans?

The Boards of the East and West Kauaʻi SWCDs are responsible for reviewing and approving plans. The Boards meet once per month and meetings are open to the public. Kauaʻi SWCDs were formed in 1953 as a governmental subdivision of the state. There are 16 SWCDs in Hawaiʻi.

What happens after the plan is approved?

The District will notify Public Works of the plan's approval. It is your responsibility, however, to take your conservation plan, plan map, and Historic preservation letter to the Design and Permitting Section to obtain the official agricultural exemption.



For more information contact:



County of Kauaʻi Department of Public Works Engineering Dept.—Design & Permitting

4444 Rice Street, Suite 175
Lihuʻe, HI 96766
808-241-4896



Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Kauaʻi Soil & Water Conservation Districts

4334 Rice Street, Suite 207
Lihuʻe, HI 96766
808-245-9014 opt 3

To learn more about Conservation Planning and the Sediment and Erosion Control Ordinance visit:

<https://www.KauaiSWCD.org/planning>

Remember!

Any exemption granted shall terminate ten (10) years after the Board's approval, unless the plan, with appropriate modifications, is reviewed and re-approved by the Soil and Water Conservation District Board and it is your responsibility to take the required plan, maps, and letter to Public Works.

Directors & Field Staff

East & West Kaua'i SWCD

Directors & Staff

Our District Directors & Partners, Conservation Specialists and NRCS Field Office Staff



Back row: Peter Tausend (WK Chair), Paul Togioka (County of Kaua'i—Dept. of Public Works), Bailey Clay (Associate Director), Blaise Boyle (Director)

Middle Row: Kalaniumi Martin (Associate Director), Jon Ching (Associate Director), David Smith (Treasurer)

Front row: Jenna Dunn (NRCS District Conservationist), John Nelson (HACD Conservation Specialist), Adam Killermann (Director), Howard Greene (Director), Jenni Scotti (SWCD Conservation Specialist), Rebekah Magers (District Assistant & NRCS Program Support Specialist)

Not Pictured: Associate Directors: Robin Young, Gary Ueunten, Roy Oyama, Greg Williams



Back row: Leonard Vierra (Treasurer), Jerry Ornellas (Associate Director), John Nelson, Ed Kawamura Jr. (EK Chair), Darren Tamekazu (Associate Director)

Front Row: Eric Hansen (Director), Arryl Kaneshiro (Director), Rebekah Magers, Jenni Scotti, Jenna Dunn, Genoa Starrs (NRCS Soil Conservationist)

Not Pictured: Michael Fernandes (Director), Thomas Oi (Associate Director)



Meet our new SWCD Director and Associate Directors

Eric Hansen

Since 2014, Eric Hansen has been the program coordinator on Kaua'i for the agriculture incubator training program, Go Farm Hawai'i. He has a M.S. in Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science and a B.S. in Environmental Science from UH Hilo. His work experience includes commercial taro farming, orchard production, export ginger production, botanical inventories for Environmental Impact Statements, conducting a climate/hydrology assessment for the island of Lana'i, numerous forest restoration projects, two internships with NRCS in Hilo, and managing the largest ex-situ collection of endangered flora for the National Tropical Botanical Garden. He volunteers his time with the third and fourth grade students of Kawaikini school, where he teaches and helps the students farm 17 different varieties of taro. Eric has also authored and co-authored peer reviewed articles in the Journals of Ecology, Hydrological Processes and Pacific Agriculture and Natural Resources.



Mr. Hansen joined the East Kaua'i SWCD as a Director in May 2018.

Jon Ching

Jon Ching has worked at Kaua'i Coffee Company for the past 11 years and has been the Orchard Operations Manager since 2016. He is a graduate from UH Manoa with a B.S. in Tropical Plants and Soil Sciences. He was born and raised on the island of Kaua'i and grew up on his family's ranch in Wailua Homesteads. Currently, he lives in Ele'ele with his wife and three year old son.

Mr. Ching joined the West Kaua'i SWCD as an Associate Director in Sept. 2018. He will be replacing Peter Tausend in July 2019 as a West Kaua'i SWCD Director.



Bailey Clay

Bailey Clay is the current Breeding Projects Manager for Beck's Superior Hybrids in Kekaha. She was born and raised in north eastern Kansas and graduated from Kansas State University. She has worked in nursery fields on Oahu, Molokai and Kaua'i since 2005, and her special work interest is in geographic information systems. Her husband is a fisherman and they have two children who attend Kalaheo Elementary School.

Ms. Clay joined the West Kaua'i SWCD as an Associate Director in Dec. 2018



Outstanding Water Conservationist of the Year 2018

East & West Kauaʻi SWCD

Kauaʻi Emergency Management Agency (KEMA)

By Jenni Scotti—SWCD Conservation Specialist



Water is a powerful and important part of our health as well as the environment. It can support life and create immense damage and destruction. As a community, understanding this balance for protecting our ahupuaʻa and the people within is essential for our ability to work together. In 2018, our island has faced several instances where we needed to not only protect our neighbors, but also move forward with work that will protect all of our ahupuaʻa, encompassing land, water, and life. This year, in place of the annual Water Conservationist of the Year award, the East and West Kauaʻi Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) would like to recognize the Kauaʻi Emergency Management Agency (KEMA) and the community of Kauaʻi, which includes every organization and individual who helped their neighbors in working together during and moving forward from the historic floods of April and August.

Response to these floods led to many examples of organizations and individuals assisting with clean-up and essential food and water collection and distribution. KEMA has been recognized nationally for their immediate response as both flood events resulted in two Presidential

Major Disaster Declarations.

Particularly in April, first responders successfully evacuated over 475 people from the Wainiha-Hāʻena community after nearly 50 inches of rainfall occurred within a single day. The record-setting rain washed away parts of Kūhiō Highway and isolated the North Shore community. April's damage assessment for FEMA's individual assistance program showed 8 homes were destroyed, 67 had major damage, while an additional 301 either sustained minor damage or were deemed as affected. Additionally, there has been continued work with clean-up and repairs, and though it can be frustrating how long it seems to take, work is moving forward. Most importantly, neighbors came to help clean up homes and properties, as well as provide supplies, shelter and comfort. Kauaʻi should be proud of these actions that showcase the resiliency of our island community.

The East and West Kauaʻi SWCDs are pleased to acknowledge KEMA and the community of Kauaʻi for their heroic and ongoing assistance in response to the 2018 floods on Kauaʻi.



Chelsie Sakai and Elton Ushio accept the award on behalf of KEMA and the community of Kauaʻi



Photo from Anthony Quintano/Civil Beat

'Aina Ho'okupu O Kilauea

By Jenna Dunn—NRCS District Conservationist

This year's Outstanding Cooperator of the Year is 'Aina Ho'okupu O Kilauea (AHK). According to their website, AHK is devoted to, "being able to facilitate solutions to economic, social, and agricultural/food security challenges that the greater Kilauea community faces." AHK is the non-profit that continues to develop and manage the Kilauea Community Agricultural Center (KCAC). The KCAC is 75-acre parcel formerly owned by the Kilauea Sugar Plantation Co.

When AHK took control of the land in late 2018 it was dominated by Christmas Berry, Strawberry Guava, Java Plum, African Tulip and other invasive trees. As of May 2019, AHK has enhanced the community's food security in Kilauea by establishing a 1.5 acre community farm, developing a total of 5 acres into half acre lots (10 altogether) for commercial use complete with an irrigation system, and developing 2.5 acres for a farmers market area which will support a fruit stand, 2 open pavilions for the market, a wash station and public restrooms. They have also created a thriving Community Supported Agriculture, CSA, program utilizing over 30 varieties of fruits, vegetables and flowers. Another way AHK demonstrates their commitment to the community is by giving away CSA boxes and excess produce to senior citizens, families in need, and outstanding community members. Their community farm is also supporting a snack program for Hanalei School. Additionally, they are installing a privacy hedge consisting of various food and flower producing plants. It is not only functional, but attractive as well.

In addition to focusing on food security and farmer development, AHK is committed to the community as a whole. After the devastating floods in 2018 AHK was a key player in recovery efforts. They accepted donations from across the island and ensured that those in need received crucial assistance. For residents of Kilauea and visitors

alike, AHK has established a pedestrian path through the property and begun constructing pavilions that will be scattered along the path. They are also involved in efforts to clean and protect the nearby Kahili beach. AHK's devotion to the community is admirable and ongoing. Everything mentioned thus far is a small snapshot of the work AHK has done.

The Kaua'i SWCDs recognize all the amazing work AHK has done and the essential support it provides to the Kilauea community and the island of Kaua'i. 'Aina Ho'okupu O Kilauea is a phenomenal example of what can be accomplished when a community works together toward a common goal.

To learn more about what AHK is doing and how you can get involved or donate visit their website.

www.ainahookupuokilauea.org

AHK
Aina Ho'okupu O Kilauea

SIGN UP FOR OUR

2019 CSA

COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE

CSA is a system in which members of a community invest in their local farm by paying for a share of the season's harvest. A farmer therefore gets cash at the beginning of the season when it's most needed, and customers get a share of vegetables each week, usually worth their investment price plus extra as a reward for supporting local farming.

\$20 PER WEEK	HALF	WHY JOIN? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kilauea Community Farm currently occupies 1.5 acres. Annually, we produce about 30,000 lbs. of vegetables are distributed to CSA members, senior groups, and schools. A lot of the work is done by volunteers that assist the farm manager and AHK. Without your financial assistance this system would not work. Regular weekly produce makes healthy eating convenient!
\$40 PER WEEK	FULL	

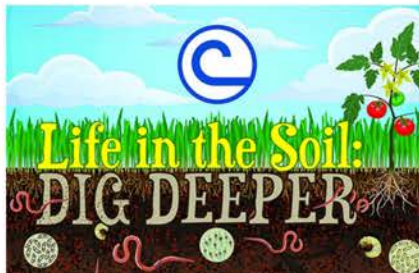
**CERTIFIED ORGANIC
LOCAL
FRESH
SEASONAL
NON-GMO
HEALTHY**

SIGN UP BY JULY 15

FARM PICK-UP: TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS, SATURDAYS
JULY- DECEMBER (23 WEEK SEASON)

Sign Up at: AinaHookupuokilauea.org
or Contact Maluhia L'Hote, Farm Manager (Kilaueacommunityfarm@gmail.com)

By Jenni Scotti—SWCD Conservation Specialist



interactions. Healthy soils are important for successful functions of ecosystems and agriculture. Our influence can alter the balance of soil health. Life is one of the major factors to soils, and we will Dig Deeper to learn more about life in the soil!

There are four major components to soil: minerals, air, water, and organic matter. Changing any part of these components can influence soil structure and function. Generally, soil is made up of about 45% minerals, 25% air, 25% water and 5% organic matter. In order for any soil to successfully maintain life, it needs to contain organic matter, both alive and decaying. Without life, soil cannot support life, a catch 22 for healthy soils. Life helps create nutrients as well as the space for water and air, and life needs those resources in order to successfully grow.

Soil organisms have several important functions. Examples include decomposing organic material, being a source or sink for key nutrients, converting nutrients into forms that life can utilize, supporting plant and animal interactions that perform both mutualistic and parasitic functions, and acting as engineers of soil structure that they also maintain. A handful of soil can contain billions of individual organisms. There are different sizes of life in the soils. Macro-organisms can be seen by the naked eye and microorganisms need magnification in order to be seen.



Macroflora (flora = plant life), such as plant roots and mosses, are primary producers of organic matter and contribute the bulk of carbon and energy needed to support the soil food web. **Microflora**, such as root hairs, bacteria, fungi and algae are responsible for most of the decomposition and release of nutrients from detritus in the soils. Additionally, they are key for soil development. Both microflora and macroflora provide glues that are responsible for soil structure. **Macrofauna** (fauna = animals) includes earthworms, slugs, millipedes, centipedes, beetles, spiders, ants, termites and larger animals such as mice. They are mostly herbivores and detritivores, with the larger animals being mostly predators. These animals create macropores, which are important for water infiltration, as well as air and organic material movement. They are also responsible for mixing the soil, which can alter the soil horizons and influence root patterns. Smaller macrofauna such as ants, termites, springtails, mites and other small arthropods fragment and ingest litter that is coated with microorganisms. They produce large amounts of fecal matter that has more surface area and moisture-holding capacity than the original litter. **Microfauna** such as protozoans, rotifers and nematodes are important predators of fungi and bacteria and are key to converting organically bound nutrients to inorganic nutrients that are available for organisms to use.

Fungi include molds, yeasts and mushrooms and generally provide the greatest fraction of biomass in the soils. Mushroom fungi have mass networks of mycelia belowground and can also produce large structures that we can see with the naked eye. Mushroom fungi are most important for



Mycorrhizal fungi symbiotic relationship with plants. Source: Dirt Goddess Garden

breakdown of woody tissue. Some species form **mycorrhizae** with roots, enabling a symbiotic relationship between fungi and plant roots. The fungus receives food from the plant in the form of sugars and

organic molecules. In exchange, the fungus provides multiple benefits to the plant including: enhancement of nutrient and water uptake, protection from root pathogens and extending the lifespan of small roots. Additionally, different mycorrhizal fungi species can function in the soils to bind soil particles together, link all plants into common networks in which carbon and nutrients move, contribute to soil carbon and nitrogen pools, and provide a food source for animals.

How does this influence us?

Poor soils reduce water infiltration, which leads to erosion by causing more water to stay on the surface and take sediment off the land. Water movement can also remove nutrients from the site. Movement of both sediment and nutrients can impact water quality. When soil is tilled or disturbed, oxygen is introduced into the system, which encourages micro-organisms to decompose organic matter faster than in an undisturbed system. In the long-term, this will reduce the organic matter contained within soils. Soil life is

critical to soil structure, water infiltration and nutrient capture for plants. Agriculture relies upon healthy life and soil interactions in order to be successful in food production. Having healthy soils can reduce the need for external inputs if nutrients and water remain available on site, as well as keeping soil in place for future use.

What can we do?

Most importantly, we need to keep soil in place. One thing that can be done is to plant ground cover and other plants, making sure no soil is uncovered. Include plant species that



encourage mycorrhizal fungi interactions. If you have a garden or farm crops, having a plant rotation that includes different species will encourage different soil organisms and reduce pest organisms to reduce need for pesticide use. Encourage soil life through buildup of soils, using mulch, compost and earthworm castings to provide nutrients and organic matter. Minimize soil tillage to reduce impact on soil habitat. Know what organisms are good for your plants and try to not kill them. Most importantly, to learn more about Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper!

For more information:

Outreach and contests—www.KauaiSWCD.org
Soils, soil games and activities— www.soil4kids.org
If you are a teacher—www.soils4teachers.org
Information on soils and soil testing— University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human resources (CTAHR), Kauai office—
www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/site/ContactKauai.aspx
Hawaii soils information—www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/site/ExtSL.aspx
NRCS soil health website—www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/soils/health/

Community Outreach & Education

East & West Kaua'i SWCD

2018 theme:



Conservation Poster Contest

By Jenni Scotti—SWCD Conservation Specialist

The local contest has three age groups: K-1st, 2nd-3rd and 4th-6th. The top three winners of each category receive a prize and the first place in each group is sent to the State contest. The first place poster for each category is then sent to the national contest in Washington DC.

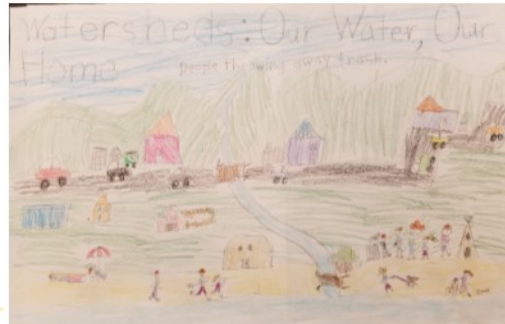
K-1st Grade



1st Place Kaua'i, 1st Place State

3rd Place National

Sophie Grace Cornell—Grade 1—Kilauea Elementary



2nd Place Kaua'i

Kailee Padgett Joseph—Grade 1
Kalaheo Elementary School



3rd Place Kaua'i

Kiele Soltren—Grade 1
Kilauea Elementary

2nd-3rd



1st Place Kaua'i, 2nd Place State

Brysten J. Nagamine—Grade 3
Ele'ele Elementary



2nd Place Kaua'i

Judah E. Snyder—Grade 2
Kaua'i Christian Academy



3rd Place Kaua'i

Ariana Cadavona—Grade 3
Ele'ele Elementary School

4th-6th



1st Place Kaua'i, 1st Place State

Waianuhe Leimomimakamae Karratti
Grade 4—Kawaiikini



2nd Place Kaua'i

Isabella Elena Martinez—Grade 5
Ele'ele Elementary



3rd Place Kaua'i

Tyren Sasil—Grade 5
Ele'ele Elementary School

Mahalo to Kukui Grove and their staff for providing space to display the posters!
Mahalo to the teachers and students from all the schools who participated this year!

Conservation Awareness Contest

By Jenni Scotti—SWCD Conservation Specialist



There are many factors that go into understanding what kinds of activity can take place on different lands. We have to consider climate, soils, slopes, water table and the overall landscape. It is important to know what type of land is appropriate for farming, ranching, or forestry. It is also important to determine what structures can or cannot be built on a property

The Conservation Awareness Program (CAP) contest (also known as the Land Judging competition) is an annual contest for high school students held at county, state and national levels. The contest focuses on how soil properties and environmental factors affect the potential for various land uses. The students evaluate site conditions such as rainfall, soil texture and land slope to determine major factors that affect the land. They then combine all the information to identify the land capability class, which determines land use. They then select appropriate conservation practices for the land use. The students also use a similar process to determine the suitability for building a home by assessing each soil and environmental factor's limit on foundations, landscaping and shallow excavations.

The ultimate goal of this contest is to introduce soil science, soil and water conservation and natural resource stewardship to students. We hope that they can utilize this information in their

own lives and also foster interest in Soil Science, Agronomy, Agriculture, Conservation, Natural Resource Management and Environmental Sciences as possible careers.

We offer classroom visits, as well as outreach events throughout the year, to teach topics relevant to soils, land determination and conservation. The contest itself takes place in October, with the state contest taking place on the hosting island in November. Kauai last hosted both the county and state contest in 2017. This year the state contest is anticipated to take place on Molokai. The Kauai Soil and Water Conservation Districts send the winning team to the state contest, where they have the opportunity to meet and compete with students from across the state. The winning state team will then have the opportunity to represent the state of Hawaii in the national contest. In 2013 the Kauai team won the state contest and, through donations and fundraising, was able to attend the national contest in Oklahoma! Since 1988, Kauai has won the state contest 11 times. Prior to 1988, Kauai was a regular participant and winner of the state contest. This is an excellent opportunity for High School students in that any team can participate, as long as they have a sponsoring organization (school, 4H, FFA, etc.).



For more information regarding this contest, interest in participation or being a sponsor, please see our website www.KauaiSWCD.org or email ewkswcd@gmail.com.

Community Outreach & Education

East & West Kaua'i SWCD

2018—2019 Activities Overview

- **EWKSWCDs' ANNUAL REPORT:** Through the annual report, our conservation partners and the public are informed of our accomplishments and activities during the year.
- **OUTSTANDING COOPERATORS OF THE YEAR:** Annually, we honor Kaua'i ranchers, farmers and organizations who make outstanding efforts to conserve and protect our natural resources.
- **OUTSTANDING WATER CONSERVATIONISTS OF THE YEAR:** Each year, we recognize and honor Kaua'i farmers or ranchers who make outstanding efforts to conserve and protect water in operating their farms or ranches.
- **CONSERVATION AWARENESS CONTEST:** We sponsor this annual land judging contest among Kaua'i high school students. With assistance from the UH Cooperative Extension Service, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and cooperation of the State Department of Education, the students learn the importance of natural resource conservation and protection in agricultural production. The winning team competes in the State contest and the State's top team represents Hawai'i at the national competition.
- **KAUA'I COUNTY FARM BUREAU GARDEN FAIR AND FARM FAIR:** We participate in these two events, in April and August, to publicize our activities and role in natural resource conservation.
- **AG AND ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS DAY:** Annual event in May at the UH CTAHR Extension and Agricultural Center in Wailua. Fifth grade students from across Kaua'i enjoy a day of agricultural and environmental related activities and lectures.
- **COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF WATER ANNUAL "MAKE A SPLASH WATER FESTIVAL":** We participate in this event to help the County Department of Water promote awareness, appreciation, knowledge and stewardship of water resources to Kaua'i's fifth graders.
- **POSTER CONTEST:** The National Association of Conservation Districts' Poster Contest for Kaua'i's K – 6th Grade students is a national contest to encourage teachers and students to be good stewards of the land by conserving and protecting our natural resources. Posters are drawn by the grade school students to express their thoughts on natural resource conservation and protection. First place posters are sent to the national competition.
- **WORLD SOILS DAY:** For World Soils Day on December 1, the SWCD, NRCS, and CTAHR's Master Gardeners teamed up together at the Kaua'i Community College (KCC) Farmer's Market to show the community how to texture soil, paint with soil, and use worms to make their own compost.



Emilie Kirk and the Master Gardeners partnered with the SWCD and NRCS on World Soils Day.



Directors and SWCD/HACD staff at the annual Make a Splash Festival put on by the Department of Water.



Kawaiini students watch as Jenni uses the NRCS rain simulator to show erosion and infiltration of healthy soils versus depleted soils.

Finding New Customers on Kaua'i

By Genoa Starrs—NRCS Soil Conservationist



Dry litter systems in American Samoa. Source: NRCS

Push for Piggeries

Pork plays an important cultural role in the Pacific Islands, and it isn't unusual for someone to have a pig or two they are raising for friends, family, or special events. However, many of these small-scale operations are located near waterways and run on a shoestring budget, leading to concerns for water quality, waste management, and animal health (among others).

John Nelson (HACD Conservation Specialist) and Jenna Dunn (NRCS District Conservationist) spearheaded targeted outreach and workshops (9/15/18 and 9/16/18) based on the work done in American Samoa. They presented information on best management practices for deep and dry litter systems, piggery resources and permitting processes, and NRCS program capabilities. Their efforts to get information to all parts of the island paid off, with piggery operators and curious parties attending the workshops, and the field office's first three EQIP piggery applicants in recent memory. Their success with the piggery community has encouraged further efforts by CTAHR extension, and

three more workshops were planned for the end of 2018 and early 2019. No one knows what the future may hold, but the office has high hopes for building trust with this previously underserved community.

Thai Farmer Workshop

This has evolved into the year of the Thai Farmer in the Lihu'e Field Office. The Thai farming presence on Kaua'i has been quietly growing over the last few years, with little direct contact with NRCS and the SWCDs except the occasional Highly Erodible Lands (HEL) determination and input from our Farm Services Agency (FSA) office. With just two Thai applicants in FY16 and 17, but a large influx into FSA, we strove to find out why people weren't coming in the door. With some hard work, in FY19 everything finally fell into place. A successful FY16 EQIP contract with a Thai producer and the introduction of a CTAHR extension agent with Thai language skills enabled our office to make headway with the Thai community. NRCS and CTAHR held a Thai-language workshop on September 29th 2018 to present information on conservation practices that could benefit their operations and to introduce them to NRCS programs. The meeting attracted 13 participants and resulted in nine Thai FY19 applicants.

Learning about the techniques, goals, and needs of this community while providing the best customer service possible is an exciting challenge, and we're working hard to make our materials and programs more accessible to all.



Community Outreach & Education

East & West Kaua'i SWCD

Conservation Highlights: Education & Outreach

By Genoa Starrs—NRCS Soil Conservationist

East and West Kaua'i SWCDs, HACD, and NRCS partnered extensively this year to put a spotlight on education. Below are some pictures and information about our favorite events this year!

The Kaua'i Girl Scouts hosted a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Fest (11/17/18) with stations hosted by various Kaua'i STEM-based organizations. The SWCDs and NRCS co-hosted a booth showcasing watersheds and the importance of careers in natural resource management.

CTAHR, the Master Gardener Program, NRCS, and the SWCDs celebrated World Soils Day at the Kaua'i Community College Farmer's market (12/1/18). Featured topics were cover crop mixtures, soil maps, and how to take and submit soil sample. Activities included soil texturing and soil painting for the whole family!



Jenni Scotti (SWCD) and John Nelson (HACD) presented to over 500 students at schools across the island to drum up participation in the NACD Conservation Poster contest on the theme of "Watersheds: Our Water Our Home." 222 students from five schools submitted posters, with two Kaua'i students going on to place at the statewide competition and one student taking home Kaua'i's first national award.

They're keeping the momentum going with innovative activities and demonstrations on this



year's theme, "Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper." At Agriculture Awareness Day (4/25/19), John, Jenni, and Rebekah pulled out all the stops in their six presentations to over 180 students. Highlights included a slake test, a rainfall simulator, examining nitrogen-fixing root nodules, and Berlese funnels to look at soil organisms. They continue to get their hands dirty with soil texturing during classroom visits.

The Kaua'i Farm Bureau Garden Fair (4/6/19) gave us the opportunity to share conservation and soils information with the public at large. We worked to drum up interest in using cover crops to improve ailing soils and vetiver grass as an affordable alternative to engineering and machinery for erosion control.

The 2019 Ag Summer Series, co-hosted by the East and West Kaua'i SWCDs, HACD, and NRCS, aims to deliver up-to-date information on conservation practices to producers. Keep an eye out for the following topics this summer:



June: High Tunnels

July: Piggeries

Aug: Agroforestry

Sept: Soil Health

For more information on any of these events check out our Facebook page or contact us.

Make a Splash Festival Celebrates 15 Years

By Jonell Kaohelauii—County of Kaua'i, Dept. of Water



Students from Wilcox Elementary learn about natural water filtration at the Water Percolation activity station.



The Kaua'i Department of Water (DOW) hosted its 15th annual water education event; the Make a Splash with Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) Festival, on September 20, 2018 at the Pua Loke Arboretum.

The DOW's annual Make a Splash Festival with Project WET festival and has educated over 11,000 students over the past 15 years. Make a Splash is part of DOW's community outreach and educational program to promote water conservation and water education to its current and future customers. In 2018, DOW hosted 650 students, 12 community partners and offered 13 water education activity stations.

Kaua'i's Make a Splash with Project WET Festival is currently the state's largest and only water education festival. The event brings together parents, students, teachers, government agencies and enthusiasts of all kinds for a common cause: to raise awareness for water education and conservation. At the festival, students participate in dynamic hands-on activities, games and educational exhibits and learn how this vital natural resource affects water-dependent activities including



Students from Kapa'a Elementary learn how water molecules move through the water cycle at the Incredible Journey activity tent sponsored by the East & West Kaua'i Soil and Water Conservation District.

agriculture, recreation, groundwater, the local industry and wildlife habitats.

The DOW is Project WET's host Institution for the State of Hawai'i. To learn more about Project WET, visit www.projectwet.org. The DOW's 16th annual Make a Splash with Project WET Festival will be held on Friday, September 20, 2019.

For more information or to sign up as a volunteer, please call DOW's Information & Education Specialist, Jonell Kaohelauii at (808)-245-5461.



Students learn about natural resource management as they work together to transport a single water source through an obstacle course of drought, flooding, endangered species and pollution

Large Scale Composting with Zero Waste Kaua'i

By Ruta Jordans—Zero Waste Kaua'i Volunteer

In 2018, the County of Kaua'i through the Office of Economic Development funded the purchase of five compost tumblers to see if composting would work in industrial size kitchens with the goal of reducing organics in the landfill.



John Harder, a Zero Waste Kaua'i (ZWK) founding member, is utilizing one to research how it works to better explain it to prospective facilities that would have a composter on a six month basis. Kaua'i Community College (KCC), spearheaded by Phi Theta Kappa and the Ho'ouluwehi Sustainability Committee, was the first industrial size kitchen to get one. At Island School, teacher Pat Gegen is working with eighth graders on sustainability, and at Kawaikini New Century Public Charter School, Kumu Nicomas Dollar and Haley Molnar are working with seventh graders. Eat Healthy in Kapa'a was the first restaurant with its owners new to composting, but excited about the opportunity.

With all compost tumblers in place, ZWK is monitoring their progress. John Harder's primary research objective is to see how well the Jora 400 can manage Compostable Food Service Ware (CFSW) and other bio-degradable plastics. He took two bags (about 20 gal each) of CFSW from an event and shredded them with his lawnmower. While the bulk of the organic material decomposed fairly well,

the polylactic acid (PLA) material showed little sign of decomposition. The small print for composting these products says to process only in industrial composting facilities, which have an extended processing period. John continues to leave them in the compost tumbler to give them a longer time for results.



Both Kawaikini and Island School have successfully produced compost. At Kawaikini the students were using the separate compartments of the composter to test whether saw dust or wood chips would provide the better carbon content. The saw dust (as expected) broke down the food materials much quicker and also produced a more well balanced compost. They discovered turning the composter more than six times around is more beneficial, keeping it aerated and thus keeping the



The Jora 400 makes it easy for anyone to turn food waste into compost. Students from Kawaikini work together to turn the tumbler.

— Continued on next page —

smells down. They added the compost to a couple of different garden plots to grow tomatoes, kale, and marigolds. The composter even became a fun lesson about compost for the keiki in kindergarten who were curious and wanted to spin the composter.

The food waste collection system for KCC is working through its first trial run. Thanks to Jimmy Trujillo and student Rebekah Magers, it was inaugurated during the first week of April as part of the campus wide celebration of Earth Month. The system involves student and faculty volunteers monitoring food waste collection containers in the cafeteria. Students from BIO 172, as part of their lab assignment, collect the containers and place contents into the Jora 400, after they have recorded data (volume & material type). The participants commented that even though it took a lot longer than most would've expected to jump through organizational hoops in order to start using the compost tumbler, the opportunity to start something new and develop a complex system that has the potential to create institutional change is significant in itself. Building community and capacity at the same time has been an incredible achievement.

After having the compost tumbler for two months, Eat Healthy commented: "The process itself is easy and user friendly even for me, a first time composter. Customers are seeing us composting, and they are happy to see that we are."

The original agreement for the compost tumblers were six month loans. The next step is discussing the possibility of each organization or business purchasing their own compost tumbler. ZWK plans to market the program based on current success in order to find new facilities to test the equipment within the next round.



Top: Students from island School stand in front of their Jora 400 full of ready to use compost.



Bottom: Students from Kawaikini show off their Jora 400 full of food scraps.

For more information on waste management and recycling visit www.zerowastekauai.net.

If you are interested in trying the Jora 400 tumbler at your school, restaurant or space, contact Ruta Jordans at 278-2021.

To learn more about GIRC&D visit www.gircd.org.

The mission of ZWK is "to advocate, educate and promote the benefits of zero waste to the community and leaders to achieve an island-wide zero waste management system which conserves and diverts waste from the landfill."

Initially formed in 2006, ZWK became a project of GIRC&D, Inc. on 12/1/08.



NRCS Report

USDA-NRCS + East & West Kaua'i SWCD

NRCS Report

By Jenna Dunn—NRCS District Conservationist

During the 2018 fiscal year NRCS Kaua'i provided federal dollars to agricultural producers to help implement a variety of conservation practices on crop, forest, and grazing land throughout the island. Eighteen new Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA), and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) contracts were obligated to Kaua'i farmers, ranchers, and forestland operators, totaling \$496,848.27 and covering 337.9 acres. Additionally, through technical assistance outside of Farm Bill contracts the Lihue field office helped get 253.3 acres of cover crop established.

The table on the right summarizes practices installed on Kaua'i with the aid of prior year EQIP and AMA contracts as well as the applied amounts.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov

Practice Name	Practice Unit	Program	Applied Amount
Brush Management	Ac	EQIP	135.8
Conservation Cover	Ac	EQIP	0.60
Conservation Crop Rotation	Ac	EQIP	3.3
Cover Crop	Ac	EQIP	2.5
Forest Stand Improvement	Ac	EQIP	3.3
Herbaceous Weed Treatment	Ac	EQIP	61.5
High Tunnel System	SqFt	EQIP	2,880.00
Irrigation System, Microirrigation	Ac	AMA	2.9
Irrigation Water Management	Ac	EQIP	1.50
Mulching	Ac	EQIP	1.5
Prescribed Grazing	Ac	EQIP	62.80
Tree/Shrub Pruning	Ac	EQIP	2.8
Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	Ac	EQIP	1
Vegetative Barrier	Ft	EQIP	296
Watering Facility	No	EQIP	1.00
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	Ft	EQIP	458
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation	Ft	EQIP	849
Woody Residue Treatment	Ac	EQIP	66.8



UH-CTAHR Cooperative Extension Program Update

By Kaua'i CTAHR Extension Agents



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA

Greetings from UH-CTAHR Cooperative Extension!

Many thanks to both SWCD and NRCS for their collaborative efforts with CTAHR and for all their hard work on behalf of the Kauai agriculture community! Collaborations with SWCD and NRCS have been excellent, with several successful outreach events and workshops throughout the year including everything from piggeries to painting with soil. We look forward to working more with you all and nurturing a productive partnership into the future.

The past year has been a busy time for us here at Cooperative Extension on Kauai. In December we said a hui hou and best wishes to Laura Kawamura, our extension educator in 4-H youth development and health, who retired after 34 years of service. Mahalo Auntie Laura for all your dedication to our community! The rest of our current faculty began their positions in 2017 and 2018, so an update and some introductions seem appropriate:

Roshan Manandhar

Assistant Extension Agent – Invasive Species

Roshan is an entomologist with expertise in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) methods, who brings to the team his diverse experience working with a wide range of important tropical crops for many years with CTAHR on Oahu. As an extension agent for invasive species he is working on detection and identification of pest species that are suspected to be invasive, and also developing an outreach

program to create awareness of current threats from agricultural pests and diseases. Other projects include evaluating IPM methods (cultural/biological/chemical) to control key pests of fruits and vegetable crops with a current focus on cole crops and papaya, and providing grower training growers on produce safety regulations and good agricultural practices.



Emilie Kirk

Assistant Extension Agent – Agroecology; Sustainable & Organic Agriculture

Emilie is an agroecologist with a focus on soil science and a diverse background in edible crop production including a wide range of fruit and vegetable crops and rice in both temperate and tropical systems. Her extension responsibilities are equally broad here on Kaua'i, encompassing all edible crops ranging from subsistence to commercial production. Some current efforts include

immigrant farmer support, food safety training, farm-to-school networking, and coordinating the Master Gardener program. She is also in the process of developing more



comprehensive programs that include crop variety trials, soil and fertility management, organic production, and a long-term interest in climate change resilience.

Savannah Katulski

Livestock Extension Agent

Savannah grew up on a small hobby farm in Michigan where she raised show cattle, hogs, poultry, and market rabbits, and was active in the local 4-H program. She has a strong technical background in animal science with a focus on ruminant nutrition, and experience in cattle production including dairy cattle, cow/calf, feedlot, and pasture-based cattle production systems. Her CTAHR livestock programs aim to support existing livestock operations, encourage the development of new livestock producers, and support social, economic, and environmentally sustainable livestock production on Kaua'i. Some of her current projects are focused on grazing management, small ruminant (sheep and goat) management, pig

services free of charge, as well as workshops, field days, and seminars throughout the year.

Please contact us if you are interested in our extension events and activities or would like to be added to our mailing list:

Roshan Manandhar

roshanm@hawaii.edu

808-274-3477

Emilie Kirk

erkirk@hawaii.edu

808-274-3478

Savannah Katulski

katulski@hawaii.edu

808-274-3472

The CTAHR Extension Service offers numerous publications with information about testing your soil to plant diseases to food safety.

Visit CTAHR's website to learn more.

www.ctahr.hawaii.edu



production, poultry management, and the support of livestock-based youth programs such as 4-H.

Our primary role at CTAHR Cooperative Extension is to provide technical assistance and science-based information that agricultural producers and land managers can apply in their systems. All our agents offer farm and ranch assessments and consultation



Water Quality

By John Nelson—HACD Conservation Specialist



Water quality is an exceptionally important issue for all people on Kauaʻi, from the mountain to the ocean. Over the last several years the water quality on Kauaʻi has been an increasing subject of concern. Threats to our water quality and safety are prevalent and visible in the rivers and oceans every time it rains. Through surface and groundwater flow sediment, bacteria, fecal matter, pharmaceuticals, pesticides and nutrients travel throughout our water system. In addition to protecting our oceans, the influx of people on Kauaʻi, has compounded the critical need for clean potable drinking water. This can also be said of the water used for irrigation, livestock, and all agriculture in general. With the demand for agricultural products ever increasing, so is society's demand for clean water. Increasing demand is paired with increasing quality issues caused by higher human impact and larger and diverse rainfall patterns. Finding solutions to these impacts and preparing for potential challenges caused by climate change should be key strategies to address concerns about Kauaʻi's impaired bodies of water, continued soil erosion, and ocean water quality.

Reducing pollution from non-point and point sources, such as industrial plants, wastewater plants, agricultural facilities, and municipal stormwater runoff is demanding and labor intensive, but rewarding and worthwhile on all scales. From large-scale watershed restoration efforts to small-scale changes made to garden plots and farms, there are

simple steps that can be taken to protect aquatic ecosystems and wetlands in all our important geographic areas. The "snowball effect" of water quality is caused by how water moves through watersheds, all the way from mountains and ridges to the ocean. Water gathers contaminants from bare ground, roadways, parking lots, gardens—essentially anything it flows over moving at a certain rate. With such a broad issue, potential solutions must be equally broad. Individual and collective actions, intended and unintended, have consequences that put the quality of our water resources at risk.

Change will not be successful without the collaboration of landowners, land managers, and concerned citizens all thinking about the actions they can take to improve water quality. Whether it be reforesting slopes, applying nutrients in an agronomically sound manner, planting grasses to filter runoff, or beach cleanups, there are actions everyone can take to contribute to keeping our island and ocean strong and healthy. Every citizen is a stakeholder in this matter and we all should be concerned about the lifeblood of this beautiful island.

For more information about water advisories, water testing, and a water quality report, visit the Kauaʻi Department of Water website at

www.kauaiwater.org.

Future Projects

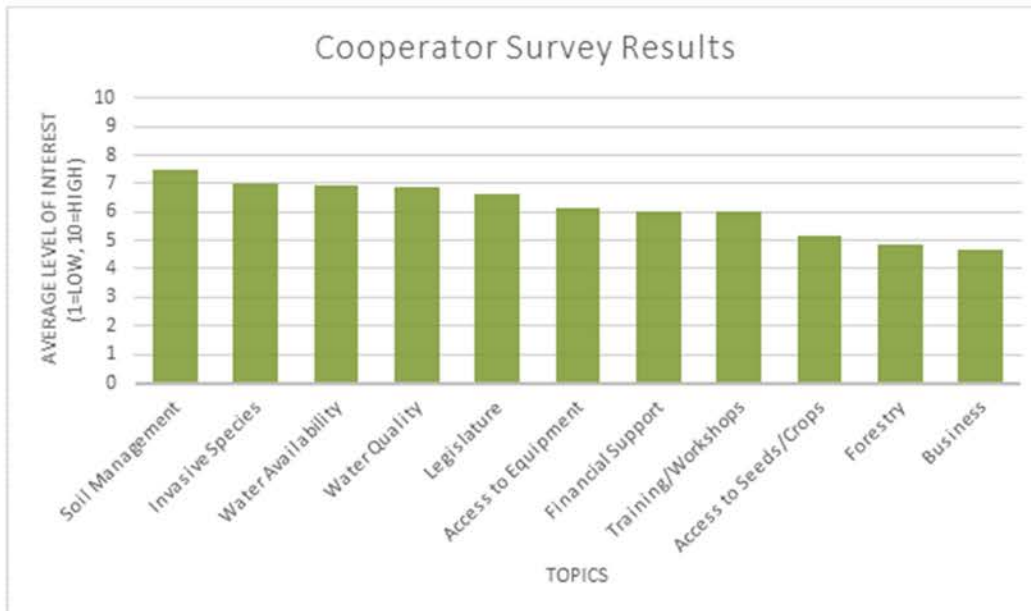
East & West Kaua'i SWCD

Future Projects: Survey Results

By Rebekah Magers—SWCD District Assistant

Earlier this year we sent out a survey by mail and email, to see what our Cooperators' needs are and how we can better assist them. In addition to the Conservation Plans and technical assistance we provide, we were interested in what projects or programs we should consider in the future. Below is what was asked and the results of the survey.

1. While we know many of the topics are interrelated, please rank from 1 (most) - 10 (least) your priorities or concerns with each of the following:



2. Are there any programs or projects happening elsewhere that you would like to see come to Kaua'i?

- + Forest restoration and wetland restoration
- + Pesticide and fertilizer training (how to mix properly, usage information, and long term effects)
- + Labels and instructions in Thai (more resources translated to other languages)

3. Please elaborate on your top priorities (ranked 1 above) to help us better understand your needs.

What do you think would help?

- + How to get rid of wedelia in pastures organically, also Albizia trees, and African tulips.
- + No good solutions for access to organic amendments other than shipping from other islands. Would like to see a coordinated ordering effort to share the cost of shipping.
- + Resources to aid soil management: Testing for pests (nematodes) and nutrients, composting (large scale), cover crops (first hand experience), controlling wild pigs
- + Access to water, irrigation information and expenses

- + Funding, less bureaucracy, cut taxes, make more farmland available

You're input is important to us!

If you are interested in giving us feedback, mail the survey on the next page to the address below, or go to our website and fill out an online version under the "Contact" tab.

Kauai Soil and Water Conservation Districts
4334 Rice Street
Suite 207
Lihu'e, HI 96766
www.KauaiSWCD.org



Mahalo nui to all the SWCD Cooperators who took their time to complete the survey this year.

1. While we know many of the topics are interrelated, please rank from 1 (most) - 10 (least) your priorities or concerns with each of the following (PLEASE CIRCLE ONE NUMBER PER TOPIC):

1. Water quality	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2. Water availability	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3. Soil Management	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4. Access to Equipment	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5. Invasive Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6. Business	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7. Financial Support	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8. Training/Workshops	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9. Legislature	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10. Access to Seeds/crops	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11. Forestry	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

2. Are there any programs or projects happening elsewhere that you would like to see come to Kaua'i?

3. Please elaborate on your top priorities (ranked 1 above) to help us better understand your needs. What do you think would help?

Future Projects

East & West Kaua'i SWCD

Future Projects: New Programs

By Rebekah Magers—SWCD District Assistant

Vetiver Grass

The Districts have been exploring new programs and projects for Kaua'i to better assist our producers and land managers. One of the projects the Districts are pursuing this year is a demonstration site with vetiver grass. In partnership with Go Farm Kaua'i and NRCS, the Districts will be installing vetiver strips along the slopes that surround the Go Farm program farm plots. Together, the Districts and NRCS will plan, collect, and install vetiver to create a functioning demonstration site for Go Farm Kaua'i students and Kaua'i community members to see the environmental and cost benefits of this sterile grass. Planning and planting will begin in 2019 and plant material will be ready for sale in the forthcoming years. Follow us on Facebook or Instagram for updates.

Instagram: [Kauai_SWCD](#)

Facebook: [@EWKSWCD](#)

To learn more about vetiver you can visit The Vetiver Solution at www.vetiverfarmshawaii.com or The Vetiver Network International www.vetiver.org.

NRCS' plant guide on '[Sunshine' Vetivergrass](#) can be found online or in print at our office.



Trying to grow your business but lack capital?

Slow Money Hawai'i

As more and more producers express financial need to get specific projects or infrastructure off the ground, the Districts connected with Slow Money Hawai'i (SMH), a microloan program that connects local ag investors with beginning or small farmers. There are two avenues a borrower can take to receive a microloan on their farm project: an international online platform called Kiva, or the SMH network consisting of Hawai'i investors looking to support the local Hawai'i food movement.

If you are interested in learning more, reading testimony, or becoming a borrower or lender visit www.slowmoneyhawaii.com.

Social Media & Online Presence

Since the conception of the Kaua'i SWCDs in 1953, the Districts lacked an online presence up until 2019. Today, the Districts have a Facebook, Instagram and website that the public can now access for more information on meetings and events, conservation plans, outreach, and partner connections. In this day and age it is important to have a website that is accessible by all for credibility and contact. Our website is easy to read and navigate, lists up to date events and meetings, and also includes a "Free Farm Things" page with materials that might be useful for any farmer or land manager. Don't know how to use Instagram on your phone? You can access our Instagram page through our website (under "Media") to see short videos and pictures of our weekly activities. If you have not been to our website yet, please visit and take a look.

www.KauaiSWCD.org

Staff Update

By Peter Tausend—West Kaua'i SWCD Chair

Thankfully there have been no staff changes since last year's report. Rebekah Magers has been invaluable as our District Assistant and also our NRCS Program Support Specialist since April 2018. Rebekah has previous conservation experience and has recently earned her Associates degree from Kaua'i Community College. She is also beginning her undergrad at UH Hilo in Environmental Science this year. John Nelson continues his role as HACD Conservation Specialist. He enjoys working with clients all over Kaua'i and appreciates being part of a close knit and helpful team. He plans to continue a focus on reducing animal waste contamination and

improving water quality. Conservation Specialist, Jenni Scotti, now has six years with us and is excelling in conservation planning and outreach activities.



We very much appreciate the continued close partnership with NRCS, from the positive attitude of Soil Conservationist Genoa Starrs to District Conservationist Jenna Dunn, graciously providing daily support and guidance to our staff.

Mahalo to all our Partners, Cooperators, & Contributors!



Mahalo to NTBG and the Department of Health for hosting our monthly SWCD meetings for the public and our Board of Directors.

Mahalo to the Breadfruit Institute for giving us a tour of their Agroforestry Project.

Mahalo to the Kona Soil and Water Conservation Districts for hosting the 2018 HACD Conference.

Mahalo to Beck's Hybrids for their donation of a rainfall infiltration simulator to use at outreach and education events.

Mahalo to Debra Chang for her donation, on behalf of Ted Inouye, to support District activities and operations.

Mahalo to CTAHR for their partnership with workshops and Emilie Kirk's translation services.

Mahalo to Governor Ige and the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Mahalo to Kaua'i Coffee, Kauai Forest to Function and Koloa Rum for their generous donations each year to the HACD Silent Auction.

Mahalo to all members of the County Council for their continuous support each year.

Mahalo to all our Directors and volunteers who dedicate their time for the benefit of our island's natural resources.

Event Photos



Clockwise: Jenni Scotti and John Nelson with Kaua'i Christian Academy (KCA) students, Peter Tausend, Jenni Scotti and John Nelson with Poster Contest winners at Kukui Grove Mall, John Nelson teaching KCA students about watersheds, Genoa Starrs at KCC Farmers Market for World Soils Day, Director Eric Hansen with Kawaikini students, Ed Kawamura Jr. with Kilauea student, Sophie Cornell, who won 3rd place in the National Poster Contest, Jenna Dunn at the Kaua'i Farm Fair, West Kaua'i Directors walking through the Breadfruit Institute Agroforestry project.





Clockwise: Peter Tausend and Jenni Scotti at 'Ele'ele School with Poster Contest winners., John Nelson presenting at the 2018 Annual HACD Conference, Jenni Scotti and John Nelson making it rain with the rainfall simulator at Ag Awareness Day, HACD Conference attendees on Big Island



After more than 20 years of service, Peter Tausend is stepping down from his roles as the West Kauai SWCD Chair and the Kauai Island VP for the HACD. His commitment to local agriculture and conservation has been invaluable. His positive attitude, spirit of unity, and support of the Kauai team are absolutely commendable. He is an all around great person and will be truly missed. We appreciate everything that he has done for the island, and hope he finally gets to enjoy his retirement! We wish him the best on his future endeavors.

MAHALO PETER!