



GOV. MSG. NO. 1085

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

July 11, 2007

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Madam President and Members of the Senate:

RE: House Bill No. 399 HD1 SD2 CD1

On July 10, 2007, House Bill No. 399 entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Agriculture" became law without my signature, pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the State Constitution.

House Bill No. 399 appropriates \$500,000 for fiscal year 2007-2008 to the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts for the operation of the sixteen soil and water conservation districts.

The objective of this bill to support the soil and water districts in Hawaii is laudable.

Regrettably, the Legislature appropriated these funds outside of the normal budget process. These expenditures have not been included in the State's six-year financial plan and have not been weighed against other State priorities. Since I took office in 2002, I have urged the Legislature to exercise fiscal discipline and prudent financial planning by acting only after developing a comprehensive, multi-year fiscal framework. This year, as I have in all previous legislative sessions, I exercised financial discipline by developing a six-year, balanced and comprehensive financial plan prior to submitting my executive budget. Unfortunately, the Legislature did not exercise the same fiscal responsibility by including this appropriation as part of the Executive Biennium Budget.

We would urge the Soil and Water Conservation Districts to work closely with their contacts at the federal level, including the U. S. Department of Agriculture, to identify federal resources and grants to continue the federal assistance these districts have traditionally received.

Additionally, we will work with them to effectively use the \$85,000 provided annually through the State's budget for carrying out the work of these districts.

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President
and Members of the Senate
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For the foregoing reasons, I allowed House Bill No. 399 to become law as Act 287,
effective July 10, 2007, without my signature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Lingle", written in a cursive style.

LINDA LINGLE

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that chapter 180, Hawaii
2 Revised Statutes, allowed for the establishment of soil and
3 water conservation districts as subdivisions of the State to
4 act, educate, construct, maintain, and assist in the development
5 of conservation plans and oversee county grading ordinances.

6 The first soil and water conservation district was
7 established on the island of Maui in 1948, to assist Kula
8 farmers. Since then, fifteen other districts have been
9 established, each with up to five board members and any number
10 of associate, nonvoting board members. All board members are
11 nonpaid volunteers serving two-year terms. Together, the
12 sixteen soil and water conservation districts form the Hawaii
13 Association of Conservation Districts.

14 The purpose of this Act is to make an appropriation to fund
15 the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts in its
16 operational expenses for all of its soil and water conservation
17 districts.



1 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 to the
4 Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts for the operation
5 of the soil and water conservation districts.

6 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
7 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

