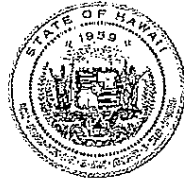


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FRPP - IFR - HAWAII

LINDA LINGLE
Governor



SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DUANE K. OKAMOTO
Deputy to the Chairperson

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September 22, 2006

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FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL (2 pages) (202) 720-9689
Easement Program Division
Natural Resources Conservation Service
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Room 6819-S
Washington D.C. 20250-1400

Subject: Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)
(7 CFR Part 1491)
Interim Final Rule

The State of Hawaii has an approved FRPP-eligible program in the Agricultural Development Corporation and one pending offer for the acquisition of a conservation easement. Since our program has just commenced, we do not believe it would be adversely affected by the proposed amendments.

We are aware of the concerns of eligible entities in other states that the proposed amendments may encumber their programs with costly redundancies to existing state processes including property title review and appraisal practices, as well as limits on impervious surfaces and concern that landowners may balk at the Federal government being co-holder of easements. Information on the frequency and magnitude of the problems that the proposed amendments are addressing would have been helpful. In principle, we would like the FRPP to allow states the flexibility to maximize the utilization of the FRPP to conserve their important agricultural lands while providing a reasonable degree of federal oversight.



Easement Protection Program
Natural Resources Conservation Service
September 22, 2006
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Should you have any questions, please contact Earl Yamamoto at (808) 973-9466, or email at earl.j.yamamoto@hawaii.gov.

Sincerely,



Sandra Lee Kunimoto
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

c: Ms. Stephanie Whalen, President and Director, Hawaii Agriculture Research Center
Mr. Alfredo Lee, Executive Director, Agribusiness Development Corporation.

frppamendments e06