



Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) of Hawaii

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The Soil Conservation Act was enacted by Congress in 1935 to control soil erosion and promote water conservation during the "Dust Bowl" conditions of the 1930s. This Act instructed the states and territories to form Soil and Water Conservation Districts to care for the farm lands. There are nearly 3000 districts which have been created in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, the Northern Marianas, and Micronesia. The appropriate role of the districts is to take available technical, financial, and educational resources and focus them to meet the conservation needs of the local land users. In this regard, the directors of the SWCD assist the farmers with their conservation plans to meet the requirements of

county grading ordinances, the state's Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Plan and the conservation provisions of the Food Security Act.

The authority to establish the districts as governmental subdivisions of the state is in Chapter 180 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes. To achieve their mission, Chapter 180 permits the districts to aid land users with equipment and materials for construction work; conduct surveys and investigations; initiate, construct, improve, or maintain projects; sell, acquire, or manage properties; effect agreements or litigation; develop or approve conservation programs and plans; establish fees for services; and require or receive materials, services, or funds to extend services.