



# West Oahu

## Soil and Water Conservation District

### West Oahu SWCD: About Us

**Mission: Coordinate and facilitate partners and governmental agencies in identifying and implementing projects and practices to assure the protection of Hawaii's environment.**

Districts work closely with county, state and federal governments and both public and private organizations in a non-regulatory capacity. Districts carry out a comprehensive conservation program that protects and improves the natural resources while assisting private landowners in using conservation practices. Since 1950, the West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) partnership has been integral in addressing serious problems across the state including soil erosion and water quality.



- ② Soil and Water Conservation District Directors are appointed(3) or elected (2) to serve on a 5 member board in an area where they live or work
- ② Directors are experienced land managers who volunteer their time to provide assistance and guidance to cooperators at monthly meetings
- ② West Oahu SWCD Directors support Cooperators by providing a no-cost alternative to the County's traditional grading, grubbing, and stockpiling permit.

### West Oahu SWCD: Cooperator Benefits

Farmers and agriculture land owners and operators are eligible to apply at no cost as SWCD Cooperators. Cooperators may develop conservation plans and submit them for review at monthly SWCD meetings. Cooperators who implement SWCD approved conservation plans may be excluded from the City and County of Honolulu grading, grubbing, & stockpiling permits [C&C Revised Ordinances of Honolulu (ROH) 14-13.5(d)] and fees. Other SWCD supports include:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ② Farm tours and peer-learning networks               | ② Conservation Planning   |
| ② Farm planning and Conservation Technical Assistance | ② Literature and online resources   |
| ② Access to free or reduced-cost farming equipment    | ② Farming supply contacts   |
|   | ② Newsletter with updates about: pests, funding, legislative bills, trainings, etc. |



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## Soil and Water Conservation District



**1950** West Oahu formed on January 4, 1950; the first SWCD on Oahu

**500+** Since 1950, West Oahu has supported more than 500 cooperators engage in practices that improve soil and water health

**7,000+** farms are in the state of Hawaii. All are eligible to receive support from Soil and Water Conservation Districts

### Role of West Oahu SWCD & Partners



Provide **technical assistance** conservation & farm planning

Support the **next generation** of farmers with classes & training

Offer farmer and peer-to-peer **training** for agriculture partners

Facilitate an alternative to the **grading, grubbing, & stockpiling** permit

Provide **financial support** and assistance to develop and implement conservation plans

**Help cooperators** access information about farming practices, resources & laws

Coordinate and enforce the **grading, grubbing, & stockpiling** permits & exclusions

### HAWAII'S LOCAL FOOD GOALS DEPEND ON OAHU AGRICULTURE

ACRES IN DIVERSIFIED CROPS ON OAHU; MORE THAN THE REST OF THE STATE COMBINED | **9,865**

ACRES IN CROP PRODUCTION ON OAHU. PASTURE LAND IS AN ADDITIONAL 18,464, OR 40,845 ACRES MANAGED FOR AGRICULTURE | **22,381**

PERCENT OF HAWAII'S PORK PRODUCTION SUPPORTED BY OAHU | **50%**

### HAWAII'S ECONOMY DEPENDS ON AGRICULTURE

**\$661** MILLION | TOTAL 2012 STATEWIDE AGRICULTURE REVENUE

**\$189** MILLION | TOTAL 2008\* OAHU AGRICULTURE REVENUE

**\$270** MILLION | PAYROLL OF HAWAII HIRED FARM WORKERS IN 2012