

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Engineering Division

May 22, 2020

Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii

**Delegation of Authority to Appoint Soil and Water Conservation
District Directors to the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources**

Under Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 180, the governance of each Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is placed in the hands of five directors, two of whom are appointed by the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board) at the recommendation of the District and three of whom are elected by the land occupiers of the District. Where directors are elected, the Board certifies the election.

The various SWCDs conduct elections for and make recommendation for appointment of directors at their regularly scheduled and publicly noticed meetings. The SWCDs then submit the documentation to support the election or appointment to the Engineering Division for approval. By Item L-1 on July 24, 2015, the Board delegated authority to the Chief Engineer of the Engineering Division to certify the election of SWCD directors.

Per HRS §171-6(8), the Board may: *Delegate to the chairperson or employees of the department of land and natural resources, subject to the board's control and responsibility, such powers and duties as may be lawful or proper for the performance of the functions vested in the board.* The Engineering Division requests that the Board delegate the authority to appoint SWCD directors to the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources. By delegating this authority, the Board will: (1) expedite the authorization of SWCD directors to be able to participate in district decision making; (2) relieve the Board of a large quantity of routine paperwork; (3) reduce the amount of paperwork within the Department and Division.

All documentation to support the appointments and election certifications of SWCD directors will be maintained within the Engineering Division.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board delegate the authority to appoint Soil and Water Conservation District directors to the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Respectfully submitted,



CARTY CHANG
Chief Engineer

Approved for submittal:



SUZANNE D. CASE, Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources

ITEM L-3