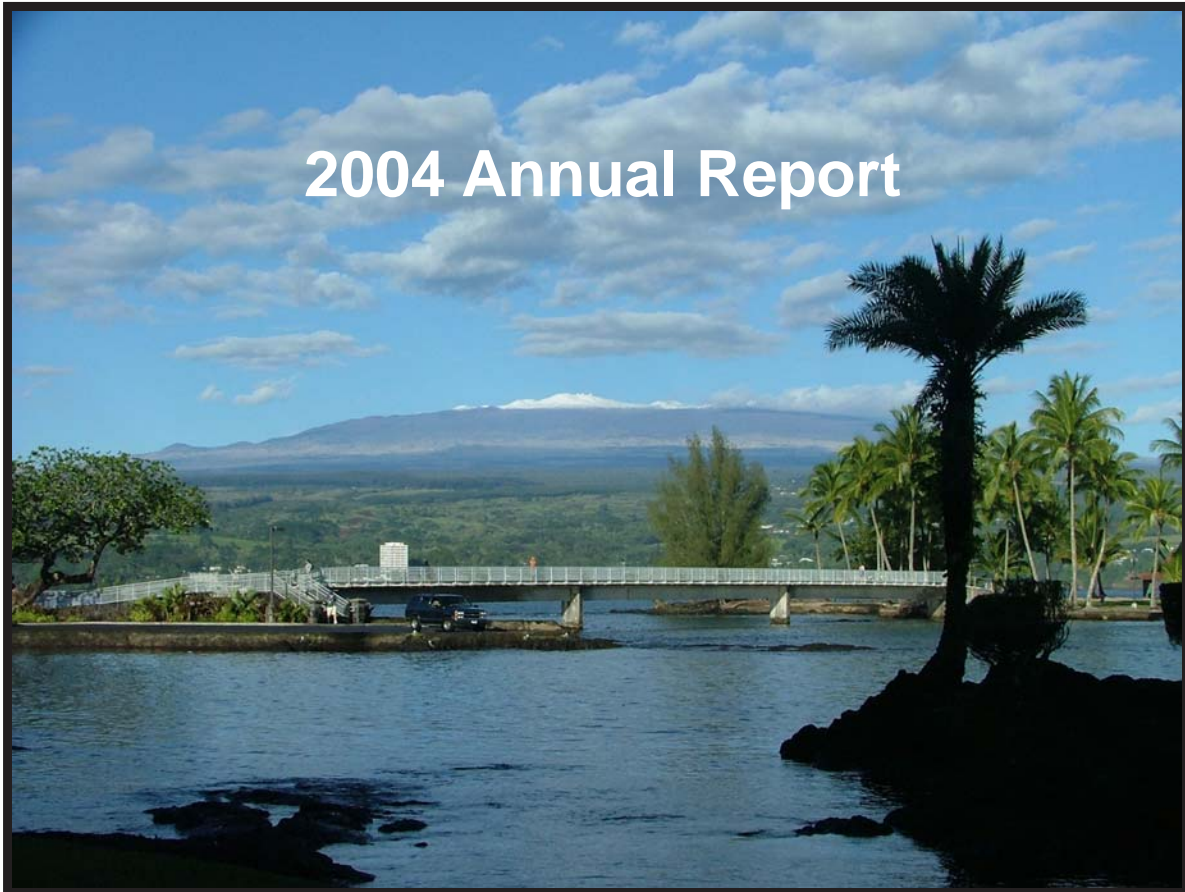


Hawaii State Association of Resource Conservation and Development Areas



Big Island RC&D: Steve Skipper, Coordinator
Garden Island RC&D: Laurie Ho, Coordinator
Oahu RC&D: Kevin Kinvig, Coordinator
Tri-Isle RC&D: Nathan Varns, Coordinator

What is RC&D?



Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) provides a way for local residents to work together and plan how they can actively solve economic, environmental and social problems facing their areas. It pulls together communities, various units of government and grass roots organizations to help residents establish direction for their program.

RC&D helps communities identify problems and opportunities, gather necessary background information, plan desired future conditions, secure necessary funding and implement projects to benefit the area.

Activities include: **land conservation** by encouraging improvement in soil quality, reduction in soil erosion and keeping sediment out of water supplies; community **development** to improve economic conditions in rural areas; **water management** to conserve, utilize and improve the quality and quantity of available water; and **environmental enhancement** to improve the environment.

Statewide Overview



Hawai`i's four RC&Ds cover 6,425 square miles on Hawaii Island, Kaua`i, Lana`i, Maui, Moloka`i, Ni`ihau, and O`ahu.

Projects and ongoing undertakings include:

- promoting programs which support communities
- sharing Hawaiian cultural and educational activities with elementary school students statewide
- directing island wide programs to eradicate or control noxious weeds (fire tree, gorse, and melastome) that threaten agricultural crops, native plants and animals
- conducting reforestation and tree planting programs
- assisting organizations with obtaining nonprofit status
- ensuring public access and stewardship of cultural and natural resources
- protecting native fish and wildlife habitat
- educating and supporting effective leaders in rural community leadership programs

Hawai`i RC&D Council Areas

Garden Island RC&D

3083 `Akahi Street, Suite #204

Lihu`e, HI 96766-1102

Phone: 808-246-0091

Fax: 808-246-1719

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www.hi.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/gircd.html

Serving Kaua`i and Ni`ihau



Tri-Isle RC&D

210 Imi Kala Street, Suite 208

Wailuku, HI 96793

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Fax: 808-242-7005

email: triisle@netscape.net

<http://www.hi.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/trircd/index.html>

Serving Maui, Moloka`i, and Lana`i



O`ahu RC&D

R.L. Cushing Building

99-193 Aiea Heights Drive, Suite #111

Aiea, HI 96701

Phone: 808-483-8600 Ext.114

Fax: 808-483-8619

email: kevin.kinvig@hi.usda.gov

<http://www.pacrimrcd.org/oahu>

Serving O`ahu

Big Island RC&D

Hilo Lagoon Center

101 Aupuni Street Suite 229A

Hilo, HI 96720

Phone: 808-933-6996

Fax: 808-933-6995

email: bircd@interpac.net

Website: www.bigislandrcandd.org

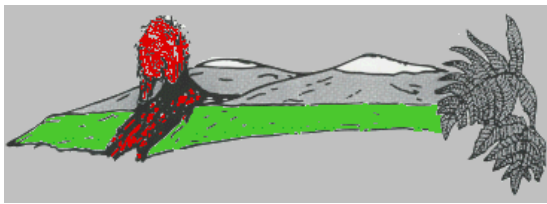
Serving the Big Island



President: Larry Komata, Big Island RC&D
Secretary: Cynthia Rezentes, O`ahu RC&D

Vice-President: Sabra Kauka, Garden Island RC&D
Treasurer: Wesley Nohara, Tri-Isle RC&D

We are an equal opportunity employer & provider.



Big Island RC&D

The Big Island RC&D Program was authorized in 1975 and is also sponsored by the County of Hawaii and the six Big Island Soil and Water Conservation Districts (Waimea, Kau, Puna, Waiakea, Hamakua and Kona). In 2004, the Big Island RC&D was involved in the following projects:

World Heritage Festival – The Big Island RC &D Council was a proud supporter and sponsor of Hawaii’s World Heritage Festival. This Festival supports efforts to showcase Hawaii’s cultural and ethnic diversity. Hawaii’s World Heritage Festival events began on Friday, August 13 when the public was invited to “Stroll the World” on the streets of Hilo from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. Downtown Hilo businesses offered complimentary ethnic food samples and music, and created window and in-store displays celebrating Hawaii’s World Heritage. On Saturday, August 14, Hawaii’s World Heritage Festival took place between 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. and was attended by hundreds of kamaiana and malahini alike with many festival visitors on island for the prestigious 2004 World Sprints Outrigger Canoe Paddling Championships. The RC&D Council provided fiscal sponsorship of this project through a \$10,000.00 grant from the county of Hawaii.

Living on a Hawaiian Stream: A Community Handbook –

This effort will assist project principals in the development and focused distribution of a guide book and educational resource that will provide practical information on the unique nature of Hawaiian Streams. A Stream Team has been organized to develop this publication and address the ancient Hawaiian cultural, and current social, biological and environmental issues associated with land use in the stream corridor. The Team will use the Hawaiian land use concept of the ahupua’a as a unifying theme for the development of the booklet. Distribution will be targeted toward schools, land developers, grading permit seekers, Realtors, county planners and Soil and Water Conservation District and NRCS offices. A \$40,000.00 grant was awarded to the RC&D Council from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for this project.

Hawaii Agriculture Development Program – This project will provide much needed capital to successful applicants for farm expansion, creation of value added products, developing vertically integrated or expanded market opportunities and increased agricultural development on the Island of Hawaii. This agricultural development project was funded through a \$115,000.00 RC&D Council proposal accepted by USDA. Monies will be continued for this project in 2005.

Downtown Improvement Association (DIA) - Visioning Series workshops. This Hawaii Community Foundation (HCF) grant (\$16,000.00) was awarded to DIA through Big Island Resource Conservation & Development for the purpose of organizing a series of community participation based planning workshops designed to promote sustainable development and growth while preserving the unique social and cultural identity of the Hilo area.



Information & Education Plan – The new coordinator initiated an information and education plan to improve RC&D program visibility and understanding in the County of Hawaii. A revised Power Point program was created and all Big Island SWCD’s were advised to put this RC&D info. and ed. program on their respective agendas for 2004/2005. The coordinator has also presented material on NRCS and RC&D programs and career opportunities to the Hilo Community College (HCC) Forest Team Class of Fall 2004.



Reese Libby, Cartographer from Waimea teaches GIS to the Forest Team.

Hilo Watershed Advisory Group - We provide technical assistance, networking skills and meeting space to this community group that is engaged with Hawaii State Department of Health and the US Environmental Protection Agency in a community outreach effort toward the development of an EPA funded Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP) on approximately 400,000 acres. Community outreach has been completed and organized to direct the WRP process. The RC&D Program and NRCS technical support have also been used to collaborate with the Group in sponsoring “Get the Drift and Bag It” beach cleanups and data gathering for the “World Water Quality Day” effort sponsored by the American Clean Water Foundation and the International Water Association.

Certified Landscape Technicians Training (CLT)

Kauai Landscape Industry Council (KLIC), under the 501(c)3 Garden Island RC&D, Inc., recently co-sponsored a Certified Landscape Technicians (CLT) Training and along with the Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii and Kauai Community College hosted a CLT Field Exam. The KLIC Steering Committee members worked for six years to get the CLT Training here to Kauai. In 2002 KLIC was umbrella-ed by the Garden Island RC&D, Inc. and the planning began to host a CLT training on Kauai. With a grant from the County of Kauai - Office of Economic Development, these local landscapers were able to put together a 13 module training with local landscapers, equipment vendors, and County Extension Agents as instructors. They were able to work with the Kauai Community College to get the CLT Training into their Employment Training Fund (ETF) matrix to qualify the CLT training for ETF funds. This was the first training to be qualified for ETF funding in the entire State of Hawaii and this CLT training has been held on Oahu, Maui and on the island of Hawaii both in Hilo and Kona. To be recognized as a Certified Landscape Technician the participants have to then take a written exam and participate in an all day field exam to earn their national certification. There are Exam stations positioned in the field and each participant must demonstrate to the judge that they understand and can actually complete a specific landscape task in a safe and professional manner.



After the tree is planted, it needs to be staked and guy wires attached to secure the tree until its roots grow out to stabilize it.

Irrigation Technicians Workshop

This two day workshop was made available to Kauai landscapers by having the National Tropical Botanical Gardens provide the venue, Irrigation Systems, Inc. provide the instructor and GIRC&D, Inc. provide the administrative assistance. Michael Vierra, from Irrigation Systems, Inc. in Maui, is a certified landscape designer with 33 years of experience. Mike's class covers landscape irrigation installation, trouble-shooting, repair and maintenance of a variety of irrigation systems.



Mike Vierra works with the participants in understanding how "timers" work and how to figure out what's wrong with the system when a controller is not operating correctly. They learned how an irrigation controller works; setting the irrigation timer stations and how to trace a problem and fix it.

Kauai Agriculture Development Program

"The Tri-Isle, Garden Island Connection"

The Garden Island Resource Conservation & Development, Inc. received a USDA – NRCS – Hawaii grant in fiscal year 2004. In FY 2005, the GIRC&D, Inc. works to administer the Kauai Agricultural Development Program (KADP). The purpose of this program is to stimulate agricultural projects on Kauai as a means to diversify, strengthen and grow our economy. GIRC&D, Inc.'s KADP has three major components – 1) train and mentor 2) development business plans including market analysis 3) cost-share grants to implement these plans. To date GIRC&D, Inc. has formed a KADP Advisory Group of nine volunteers who assist the GIRC&D, Inc. Board of Directors to roll out the Program. Based on recommendations from the KADP Advisory Group, GIRC&D, Inc. is finalizing the hiring of a KADP Project Manger to provide the coordination for the Program. There is a "call for Concept Papers" until the end of February 2005 followed by the KADP Advisory Group meeting in early March to review the concept papers and determine which projects will participate in the process to receive a KADP grant. The KADP Advisory Group will fund 80% of a project after the first 20% is "cash" matched by the applicant. This Program was modeled after the Molokai Agricultural Development Program, which is administered by Tri-Isle RC&D, Inc.



KADP Advisory Group pictured: Lincoln Ching, Calvin Shirai, Will Ronaldson, Peter Kea, Jeri Ooka, Gary Ueunten. Not pictured: Bill Spitz, Ed Kawamura, Stephen Smith, Terry Sekioka, Mabel Hashisaka, Kelly Gooding. Photo by Laurie Ho

In December 2004, Nathan Varns, Tri-Isle RC&D Coordinator, shared his expertise and experiences in administering the Program on Molokai for the past four years. The KADP Advisory Group appreciated the insight and numerous ideas that arose from the successful Molokai Program.

Oahu Resource Conservation & Development



He'e'ia Uli Restoration

He'e'ia watershed is located north of Kane'ohe on the island of O'ahu. It is approximately 2,850 acres and has three significant streams, Ha'iku, 'Ioleka'a, and He'e'ia streams, that contribute to He'e'ia wetlands/marsh and fishpond. The watershed is located between the ahupua'a of urban Kane'ohe to the south and agricultural Kahalu'u to the north. He'e'ia stream flows into Kane'ohe Bay, a Water Quality Limited segment, sub-watershed of the larger Ko'olaupoko watershed. He'e'ia is on the 2004 list of impaired waters in Hawaii prepared under clean water act 303d because of the Nitrite/Nitrate level tested and was assigned a moderate priority. Over the next 24 months, the project plans to identify, prioritize and remove invasive plants in high priority areas in the watershed. This project will also restore native vegetation and cultural water use; and manage the wetland as an interpretive area for restoration and traditional sustainable agriculture.

Kapakahi Watershed Streamwalk

The Kapakahi watershed and streamwalk plan will enhance the lives of O'ahu citizens and protect Kapakahi Stream. The stream flows approximately 1.5 miles from Hawaii Plantation Village to Pouhala Marsh in Waipahu. Kapakahi Stream watershed is 650 acres and flows into Pearl Harbor's West Loch.

A multi-stakeholder plan will restore the partially degraded Kapakahi Stream, build on efforts to create a streamwalk, to restore the marsh, link the town center with Hawaii Plantation Village, and better integrate education partners (in particular, Waipahu High School, Leeward Community College, and The Hawaii Nature Center) to broaden community ownership of a restored stream and urban center. The restoration of Kapakahi Stream will coincide with the building of a streamwalk that links Hawaii Plantation Village with Central Waipahu and Central Waipahu with Pouhala Marsh. The O'ahu RC&D was awarded a Hawaii Department of Health 319 grant fund for 22 months in the amount of \$66,000.



Kipapa Gulch Pathway

Walkers, nature lovers, history buffs, hikers, joggers, and bicyclists will all enjoy the proposed path linking Mililani to Waipio Gentry via the state-owned Old Kamehameha Highway right-of-way. The scenic route dips 1.4 miles through the gulch carved over millions of years by the Kipapa Stream. A sturdy concrete bridge dating from 1925 carried pineapple trucks across the stream until Mililani Town replaced the pineapple fields. The gently graded road designed for use by horse-drawn carts provides easy bicycle riding down and back up the other side of the valley. The only presently available route through Kipapa Gulch other than the H-2 Freeway is the current Kamehameha highway which is not pedestrian or bike friendly. The Old Kamehameha Highway right-of-way provides an excellent pedestrian and bicycle pathway. The proposed route would provide access from Mililani to the new Central O'ahu Regional Park. This bike path would be historical and scenic. The Old Kamehameha Highway symbolizes Central O'ahu's agricultural history linking rural Wahiawa to Pearl Harbor and Honolulu via the pineapple fields. 80% of the funding could come from federal funds and the other 20% will come from private sources. This project goal is to assist with the planning and transfer of property from the state to the City & County.



Tri-Isle RC&D

Irene Cordell with Maui County's Recycling Division presents details of the new Hawaii Bottle Bill to Lanai's merchants.



Lanai Bottle Recycling Project

Tri-Isle RC&D assisted in launching Hawaii's new "Bottle Bill" on the island of Lanai. The Council worked with the Recycling Division of Maui County's Department of Public Works and Environmental Management to hold public meetings for citizens and businesses to discuss details of the new recycling initiative and how they can participate. In addition, Tri-Isle staff worked to establish and provide management oversight of a new beverage bottle redemption center (the only one on Lanai) where the people can recover the cash deposit on their bottles. The center, located on the edge of Lanai City, is expected to process up to 80% of the nearly two million beverage containers that are consumed on Lanai every year.

Molokai Agricultural Development Program

Tri-Isle RC&D continued in their role as manager of the Molokai Ag Development Program (MADP). This pilot program has offered federally funded cost share assistance to the agricultural sector on Molokai to establish successful and sustainable ag based businesses. Nine grantees were awarded a total of \$177,000 in funds in Round Four which brings the total number of grantees to 43 for the four year old program.

Individual projects include a wide variety of ag based enterprises such as subscription agriculture, greenhouse/hydroponic vegetable production, community kitchens supporting value-added operations, various organic enterprises, mulch and composting operations, and permaculture and other diversified farms.

Originally conceived as a transition strategy to help Molokai farmers re-acquire farming skills after pineapple production ceased in the mid 1980's, the Molokai Program served as a model of successful ag entrepreneurship development and was recently expanded to Kauai, Maui, the Big Island, and Oahu.

Tri-Isle has shared our management experience as well as boilerplate documents developed for the program with the other Hawaii RC&D Councils who are adapting the program locally.



Neal Bal (left) and Carl Kapalolo of Maui County Fire Department flank Sharon Souza, Tri-Isle's NRCS Administrative Assistant and Smokey.

Community Firewise Program

The idea of a firewise program had been in discussion among local project partners and gained momentum with the increasing drought conditions on Maui over the last several years. Tri-Isle RC&D staff met with DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife personnel and Maui County Fire Department representatives and helped facilitate grant applications and the effort in successful community involvement and participation.

With the DLNR secured grant, Tri-Isle pursued a number of other matching sources and was successful in acquiring the required grants and in-kind volunteer and other services. Council staff worked closely with the Firewise Coordinator, Denise Laitinen to get the word out in Maui County through a series of community educational meetings held in various locations on the island, which helped stimulate grass roots involvement of citizens.

The program achieved significant results for Maui's communities. Most notably are the publication and distribution of, "Are You Firewise Hawaii?" This brochure for homeowners was also made available to other Islands. Other successes include the purchase and use of a new "Smokey the Bear" costume for community events, and production of the Firewise Safety video, which has been shared at public meetings and through *Akaku* Community Access Television.

As an added benefit, two active community firesafe volunteer field day cleanup efforts were held at a demonstration homesite residence in Makawao and in the Hawaiian Homelands community of Kahikinui in South Maui. In addition, the Maui County Fire Department was able to acquire a mobile training trailer to help them in their on-going personnel training program.

The program is having a lasting effect on community awareness of fire threats to property and how individuals can make a difference in their own neighborhoods.



Acknowledgments

The success stories of Hawai'i's RC&D program are the result of many contributions from our conservation partners. Hawai'i's RC&D Councils and USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) *thank* our partners and the many volunteers who unselfishly devote their time, money and talents:

- ❖ *Agricultural Leadership Foundation (ALF) of Hawai'i*
 - ❖ *Alexander & Baldwin (A&B) Foundation*
 - ❖ *A&B Properties, Inc.*
 - ❖ *Aloha Recycling*
 - ❖ *Alvin Kyono*
 - ❖ *American Forestry*
 - ❖ *Baldwin Malama*
 - ❖ *Bikeways Maui*
 - ❖ *Community Work Day*
 - ❖ *Conservation Council of Hawai'i*
 - ❖ *East Maui Irrigation Company*
 - ❖ *FranklinCovey*
 - ❖ *Frear Eleemosynary Trust*
 - ❖ *G.N. Wilcox Trust*
 - ❖ *Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation*
 - ❖ *Grove Farm Company Foundation*
 - ❖ *Grove Farm Company, Inc.*
 - ❖ *Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Inc.*
 - ❖ *Hawai'i Community Foundation (HFC)*
 - ❖ *Hawai'i Community Foundation - ABC Funders*
 - ❖ *Hawai'i Community Foundation - Knudsen Trust*
 - ❖ *Hawai'i Community Foundation, West Hawaii Funds*
 - ❖ *Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA)*
 - ❖ *Hawaiian Dredging Construction Company*
 - ❖ *Hawaiian Electric Industries Foundation/American Savings Bank*
 - ❖ *Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale Sanctuary*
 - ❖ *Heifer Project International (HPI)*
 - ❖ *Ho'ola Lahui Hawai'i*
 - ❖ *Kauai Chamber of Commerce*
 - ❖ *Kaua'i Coffee Company*
 - ❖ *Kaua'i Economic Development Board, Inc. (KEDB)*
 - ❖ *Kaua'i Island Utilities Cooperative*
 - ❖ *Kaua'i Farm Bureau*
 - ❖ *Kaua'i Govt. Employees Federal Credit Union*
 - ❖ *Kaua'i Marriott Resort & Beach Club*
 - ❖ *Kaua'i Power Partners*
 - ❖ *Kaua'i Nursery & Landscaping*
 - ❖ *Kekaha Federal Credit Union*
 - ❖ *Kihei 2000*
 - ❖ *Kikiaola Land Company, Ltd.*
 - ❖ *Kilauea Agronomics, Inc. (C. Brewer)*
 - ❖ *Lana'i Community Development Corporation*
 - ❖ *Lanai Company*
 - ❖ *Lokahi Pacific*
 - ❖ *Matson Navigation Company*
 - ❖ *Maui County Farm Bureau*
 - ❖ *Maui Economic Development Board, Inc.*
 - ❖ *Maui Electric Company*
 - ❖ *Maui Land & Pineapple Co., Inc.*
 - ❖ *Maui-Nui Botanical Gardens*
 - ❖ *McInerny Foundation*
 - ❖ *National Audobon Society*
 - ❖ *National Tropical Botanical Garden*
 - ❖ *National Association of Resource Conservation & Development Councils*
 - ❖ *National Association of Conservation Districts*
 - ❖ *Nature Conservancy*
 - ❖ *Nite Owl T-Shirts*
 - ❖ *Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)*
 - ❖ *Outrigger Hotels*
 - ❖ *Pahio Resorts*
 - ❖ *Patagonia, Inc.*
 - ❖ *Patricia Rouen*
 - ❖ *People Synergistically Involved (PSI)*
 - ❖ *Princeville Corporation*
 - ❖ *Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center (QLCC)*
 - ❖ *Rare and Dear, Inc.*
 - ❖ *Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI)*
 - ❖ *Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)*
 - ❖ *Seacology Foundation*
 - ❖ *Susan Middleton & David Liitschwager*
 - ❖ *Volunteer Consultants*
 - ❖ *West Kaua'i Community Development Corporation (WKCDC)*
 - ❖ *West Marine, Inc.*
- County**
- ❖ *Agency on Elderly Affairs*
 - ❖ *Bicycle Advisory Group*
 - ❖ *Board of Water Supply*
 - ❖ *Councils*
 - ❖ *Office of Economic Development (OED)*
 - ❖ *Energy Extension SVC*
 - ❖ *Office of the Mayor*
 - ❖ *Planning*
 - ❖ *Public Works*
 - ❖ *Research and Development (R&D)*
 - ❖ *Youth Program*
- State**
- ❖ *Departments of:*
 - *Agriculture (DOA)*
 - *Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT)*
 - *Energy Resources & Technology*
 - *Education (DOE)*
 - *Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL)*
 - *Health (DOH)*
 - *Human Concerns*
 - *Land & Natural Resources (DLNR):*
 - *Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation*
 - *Division of Forestry & Wildlife (DOFAW)*
 - *Hawai'i Forestry Community Initiative (HFICI)*
 - *Na Ala Hele Trails & Access Systems*
 - ❖ *Transportation (DOT) - Airports Division*
 - ❖ *Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA)*
 - ❖ *Hawai'i Association of Conservation Districts (HACD)*
 - ❖ *Kaulunani, Hawai'i the Beautiful*
 - ❖ *Office of State Planning*
 - ❖ *University of Hawai'i (UH):*
 - *Cooperative Extension Service*
 - *College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources*
 - *Social Sciences Research Institute*
 - *Co-op Park Studies*
 - *Hilo*
 - *Kaua'i Community College*
 - *Kauai Rural Development Project*
 - *Maui Community College*
- Federal**
- *Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*
 - ❖ *Department of:*
 - *Energy*
 - *Pacific Biomass Energy Program*
 - *Interior - US Fish & Wildlife Service*
 - *Interior - National Park Service*
 - ❖ *National Biological Service*
 - ❖ *National Fish and Wildlife Foundation*
 - ❖ *United States Department of Agriculture (USDA):*
 - *Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)*
 - *Farm Service Agency (FSA)*
 - *Forest Service (FS)*
 - *Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)*
 - *Rural Development (RD)*

Interested in Joining Us?

RC&D Councils are comprised of sponsors and community members that identify concerns and needs within their areas. Resource committees, with help from various agencies, collect information about identified problems, develop alternatives, and recommend solutions to achieve their goals and objectives. Challenges for RC&D Council members:

- ✧ Define goals and objectives to meet local needs
- ✧ Find solutions to local problems
- ✧ Plan projects to address local needs
- ✧ Look for public and private funding sources, technical expertise or other services
- ✧ Appoint committees to carry out projects on specific areas, such as recreation or agriculture
- ✧ Commit to solve problems
- ✧ Recognize that local volunteers are best able to determine needs and create solutions for their community
- ✧ Provide leadership and direction for RC&D activities
- ✧ Build teamwork between people and public agencies
- ✧ Generate support for activities that build momentum from planning to the implementation phase

Local people pooling resources and working together to conserve natural resources & strengthen our communities.

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