



Farm Bill Programs

Jeff Harlow

Assistant Director for Programs



NRCS is the federal agency that works hand-in-hand with the American people through Soil & Water Conservation Districts to voluntarily conserve natural resources on private lands.



How NRCS Came To Be



- **Started with the 1930's Dust Bowl**
- **Soil Conservation Service created in 1935**
- **First Conservation District Office opens 1937**
- **SCS evolved into NRCS in 1994**
- **Merged HI & Pacific Basin in 2006**

An aerial photograph of a coastal region. At the top, a multi-lane highway with several cars is visible, bordered by a strip of green trees and shrubs. Below the vegetation is a large body of water, likely a bay or estuary, showing varying shades of green and blue, indicating different depths or sediment levels. The shoreline is irregular, with some sandy areas and small inlets. The overall scene suggests a natural area adjacent to human infrastructure.

We address the following concerns:

Soil (erosion and sedimentation)

Water (quality and conservation)

Air (quality)

Plants (invasive)

Animals (wildlife habitat)

NRCS Vision in the Pacific Islands Area:

“Our People...
Our Islands...
In Harmony”



Our Plant Materials Center

- One of 26 centers nationwide.
- Studies at the center are devoted to finding the best plants to control erosion of island soils.
- Emphasis is focused on using native plants as a healthy way to solve conservation problems and protect ecosystems.



NRCS Partners with:

- 16 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD)
- 6 Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Councils
- Communities
- State and Federal Agencies
- Earth Team Volunteers



Our 9-Step Conservation Planning

1. Identify the problem
2. Determine the objectives
3. Inventory the resources
4. Analyze the data
5. Formulate alternatives
6. Evaluate alternatives
7. Make decisions
8. Implement the plan
9. Evaluate



Farm Bill Programs:

- Conservation Stewardship Program
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program
- Grassland Reserve Program
- Wetlands Reserve Program
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program



FRPP Key Points

- To be eligible, farms or ranches must
 - Be privately owned and contain at least 50% of prime, unique, or statewide or locally important soil, or a historical or archeological resource that is on the National Register
 - Be owned by private landowners who certify that they do not exceed the gross income limitation eligibility requirements
- Landowners retain all rights to use the property for agriculture



FRPP Key Points

- Value of easement is determined by appraisal
- Annual Allocation PIA
 - \$1,565,221 Hawaii
 - More available if have applicants



GRP Key Points

- permits common grazing practices
- 40 contiguous acres of land
- 10, 15, 20 or 30-year rental agreement or permanent 30-year easement
- appropriate restrictions during nesting season for birds



Priority was given to applications that would enroll existing grasslands at risk for conversion.

GRP Key Points

- Must be Privately owned Grassland
- Be owned by landowners who certify that they do not exceed the gross income limitation eligibility requirements
- Rental Rates similar to EQIP- Rental Agreements
- Appraised value for easement



FY10 Allocation

\$1,105,765 Hawaii

\$ 109,955 Pacific Basin

WRP Key Points

- Goal is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values along with optimum wildlife habitat on every acre enrolled
- At least 70% of each project area will be restored to the original natural condition, to the extent practicable; the remaining 30% may be restored to other than natural conditions



Koloa Duck in Taro Lo'i.

- Project participation in 10-year restoration agreement, 30 year, or perpetual easement

WRP Key Points

- Privately owned, state, county, or nonfederal public lands
- Must meet AGI and HEL requirements
- Easement Value determined by:
 - Appraisal
 - Geographic Rate Cap
 - Landowner Offer



Koloa Duck in Taro Lo'i.

- FY 10 Allocation
 - \$2,557,252 Hawaii
 - \$ 800,984 Pacific Basin

For More Information, contact:

Jeff Harlow

Assistant Director for Programs

300 Ala Moana Blvd., #4-118

Honolulu, HI 96850

(808) 541-2600 ext. 149

www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov

