



Current Developments

United States Department of Agriculture



Pacific Islands Area "Helping People Help the Land"



Chief Arlen Lancaster helps to install pili grass bales on Kahoolawe.



(L to R) Richard Stevens, Doug McKalip, Chief Arlen Lancaster, and Larry Yamamoto at a tree dedication in Kona for Earth Day.



Chief Arlen Lancaster and Doug McKalip on a Maui NRCS project tour in April.

NRCS Chief Lancaster Tours Hawaii

In mid April, Chief Arlen Lancaster and Legislative & Public Affairs Director Doug McKalip attended the 75th Annual Western Snow Conference in Kona.

As part of their first visit to Hawaii, a variety of field offices led conservation tours around the state to showcase our success with customers and partners.

On April 16, Chief Lancaster and Doug McKalip toured Ken Love's Ag Development project (Big Island RC&D) and Bob Love's coffee farm (complete with a weather station) in Kona. Later that day they also visited the Waimea Field Office and toured the Lower Hamakua Ditch with cooperators Roy Mattos, Everette Souza, and Lori Ferrol.

On April 17, Chief Lancaster made his keynote address at the Western Snow Conference in Kona, then headed to Oahu to visit the State Office and tour the Manoa Watershed project.

On April 18, Chief Lancaster and Doug McKalip visited the Plant Materials Center, the Hoolehua Field Office, and Hawaii's first Farm & Ranch Land Protection Program recipient.

On April 19, they arrived by helicopter on Kahoolawe to get hands-on experience with the revegetation efforts by the Plant Materials Center. Following that tour, they arrived at the Maui Land and Pine (ML&P) helipad in Honolua and was greeted by Vice Chair of the West Maui SWCD, Wes Nohara and staff from the Wailuku Field Office.

During their Maui visit they were shown ML&P's pineapple fields and some of the conservation practices that have been implemented in the Honolua Watershed. They were also given a tour of the Lahaina Watershed Flood Control Project, and was briefed on its importance to the protection of Lahaina Town and its coastal resources.

Before returning to Washington, DC, Chief Lancaster and Doug McKalip, along with Director Larry Yamamoto, planted native trees at the West Hawaii Veteran's cemetery for Earth Day.

Thank you to everyone involved in making this a memorable event!

June 2007

Inside this issue:

Director's Message	2
Team Recognized	2
National ET Award	4
Cooperators of the Year	5
Kagman Watershed	7
Personnel Actions	9

Director's Message by Lawrence Yamamoto

As time passes and we all get a little older, it seems that the only thing we can count on is that things will always change. 2007 has been another year of dramatic changes. Starting with the passing of some dear colleagues and then the tumultuous year in the U.S. Congress, and then all the personnel moves that have occurred, our world has changed.

The passing of Larry Shinshiro and Sharon Souza really affected many of us. They were both valued members of the NRCS family and will be surely missed. Let's remember them in our thoughts and also remember to balance our commitment to work with the importance of family and friends. As a family, let's help each other through this.

Who can forget the headlines describing what happened in the U.S. Congress earlier this year? As we now realize, our future requires us to operate through tighter financial resources.

For this year, the new U.S. Congress chose to continue NRCS funding at fiscal year 2006 levels with reductions in a few key programs. Those reductions, mainly the loss of the funding for Watershed Operations and the earmarks for the RC&D program, severely affected many of our employees. This probably indicates a change in how the U.S. Congress will be allocating funds when compared with the past. We are told that "earmarking" of funds will not occur as much as it has in the past. We will need to be flexible in the future but, working together, I am sure we can work through this change.

And of course the most visible change we have is all the changes in faces. Due to changes in NRCS policy and for varied personal reasons, many in our Pacific Islands NRCS family have decided to return to the U.S. mainland.

Most of these people have gone on to promotions and greater responsibilities and we wish them well. Many have gone to serve at national headquarters in Washington, D.C. This usually helps us because they tend to carry the islands with them in their hearts and minds. We will miss them all (and who can forget Robin Kelley!). But with this loss comes our ability to welcome the new people that have joined us. We look forward to growing together as a family.

Finally I would like to thank all of you who helped show Chief Arlen Lancaster and Doug McKalip our work in the islands. The whirlwind tour of five islands in six days will probably stay with both of them for a while. And what they saw helped them understand the unique beauty and complex natural resource challenges we face here. They both wanted to thank all of you for your hospitality and hard work. It was truly a memorable trip for them and they understand your commitment to "Helping People Help the Land."

Hui O'i Loa Award Recognizes NRCS Team



Michael Hayama, Doug Toews, and James Lum are congratulated by Larry Yamamoto.



Ranae Ganske-Cerizo and Larry Yamamoto.



Sherman White, April Harden, and Andrew Stout from the Big Island.

A team of NRCS employees has been recognized for their efforts in support of a statewide Dam Safety Inspection conducted in Hawaii. Lieutenant Colonel Charles Klinge, District Engineer for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, presented Hui O'i Loa awards to eight team members from the NRCS, for their prompt and professional response to the floods of March, 2006.

Following the tragic failure of the Kaloko Dam on Kauai that month, the State Department of Land and Natural

Resources embarked on an immediate program to conduct visual safety inspections of the 135 high-hazard dams in the State of Hawaii. These included 11 dams constructed by the NRCS under the Flood Prevention and Watershed Protection program.

Hui O'i Loa awards, for "being the best team," were presented to NRCS employees Drew Stout, April Harden, Sherman White, Diana Perry, Ranae Ganske-Cerizo, James Lum, Michael Hayama, and Doug Toews.

The timely and dedicated assistance by this group made it possible to complete the statewide inspections within a month following the Kaloko disaster, and resulted in the identification of 20 at-risk high-hazard dams, now being further evaluated for repair and remediation. This effort demonstrates the great value of public service, and these NRCS personnel, that made the Dam Safety Inspections possible.

Saipan Earth Team Volunteers

By Ken Kramer, Saipan

Who can volunteer? Anyone 14 years of age or older, who is interested in conserving our precious natural resources. You can volunteer as an individual or as a group. All you have to do is sign up as an Earth Team Volunteer (ETV). Help us Beautify the CNMI together.

“It shall be the mission of the Earth Team (ET) to provide an effective volunteer workforce within NRCS to help people conserve, improve and sustain our natural resources and environment.” In achieving that mission, ET volunteers can assist NRCS on the land, in the schools, with organizations, and in the office. The Earth Team is a United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA/NRCS) program created in 1981. Congress passed the law, Section 1526 of Public Law 97-98, the Food and Agriculture Act, in order to recognize the interest many Americans have in conservation and their willingness to volunteer time and energy to protect the Nation's natural resources for the enjoyment of present and future generations. Everyone has a responsibility to take care of the world in which they live in: No one wants to live surrounded by polluted air and water or step over mountains of litter caused by the carelessness of others. The Pacific Basin NRCS can, through the help of ET Volunteers, achieve both its mission: “To provide progressive leadership and to work with partners (Beautify CNMI) for wise use and protection of our islands' natural resources,” and its Vision: “People working together toward a healthy and productive environment through planned, wise, culturally appropriate use of island resources.”

In 2006, the MOVER Filipino volunteer group on Saipan has won the National group award for Earth Team Volunteers with Marites A. Castillo as the MOVER President. The Marianas Resource Conservation & Development Council (MRC&DC): signed up MOVER, as a proud partner of the Beautify CNMI group. Beautify CNMI is a loose coalition of government agencies, private groups, and concerned citizens interested in making the CNMI a better place to live.

MOVER group has assisted in the implementation of many MRC&DC/Beautify CNMI projects (1st photo), including the first flame tree plantings in June 2006 along Beach Road. Tree plantings in the Lao Lao Watershed (2nd photo), recycling efforts, beach cleanups, the Laderan Tangke trail clearing, and other restoration activities. MOVER continues to support and play a central role with the MRC&DC and Beautify CNMI group, which all have the same goals: “To make the CNMI a better place.” President Marites A. Castillo, and the MOVER group have put Saipan on the map!



MOVER Earth Team Volunteers have helped from the beginning to Beautify the CNMI.



MOVER and Earth Team Volunteers at the final Lao Lao Watershed tree planting.

Angelo Villagomez, the MRC&DC National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Coral Reef Public Involvement Coordinator has been the driving force in recruiting the Earth Team Volunteers. This year's group will be the Beautify CNMI group, which MRC&DC helped to found and continues to support wholeheartedly. Already at the end of January 2007, the new ETV group, Beautify CNMI, has already surpassed last year's award winning numbers. Angelo tells me: “We now have 2000 ETV hours with last weekend's Beautify CNMI activities.” The unofficial ETV goal for 2007 is 250,000 hours, which is four hours for every person on Saipan. Please, help us achieve this goal.

National Earth Team Awards Mover Group

By Anton Tornito, Guam

Congratulations to the 2006 National Earth Team Volunteer winners!

We are pleased to announce the NRCS Earth Team Group Volunteer Award winner is the Movement (MOVER), Inc Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas (CNMI), Saipan. MOVER is a local environmental action group.

This group has actively recruited members and sponsors to support numerous and varied weekend community service activities across the island of Saipan. The CNMI has made Coral Reef Public Awareness a critical long term objective to insure the sustainability of important natural and cultural resources. Partners including NRCS, the CNMI Forestry Department, Coastal Resource Management Office (CRM) and the division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) have banded together with the Marianas Resource Conservation & Development Council to support MOVER community activities and recruit volunteers.

MOVER activities include the revegetation of degraded grasslands areas that are uplands to Marine Protected Areas.



Some volunteers of the MOVER Earth Team award.

MOVER volunteers worked many hours under hot and humid conditions carrying saplings and shovels to remote upland locations to plant over 17,000 native trees covering approximately seven acres. An off-shoot of the tree planting effort, MOVER volunteers collected storm water samples from streams throughout the island of Saipan and provided them to DEQ for analysis. This information will help to develop a baseline of information to demonstrate the connection between tree planting (keeping the soil protected), reduced soil erosion and clear water.

Stream side, beach side and other community wide clean up projects were a major focus of the MOVER group. From June through September, they removed over 6,000 pounds of litter from Saipan streams and beaches. From clean-ups to tree planting events, MOVER volunteers recorded over 1040 hours. Mover volunteer coordinators plan for many more volunteer hours for 2007! With the MOVER efforts across the CNMI, they hope to educate the public and get them excited and involved in keeping the CNMI environment clean and protected. The NRCS Pacific Islands Area staff takes great pride in the efforts of the CNMI MOVER volunteers. For each MOVER volunteer, thank you for a job well done! Their efforts and important work on behalf of their community to protect and save Saipan's natural resources are essential protecting and maintaining the island way of life.



Employee Spotlight

Pamela S. Aguon, Soil Conservationist in the Saipan Field Office, was selected to serve on the National Civil Rights Committee as the Asian Pacific Islander Female representative. Pam has been active in a variety of civil rights activities including time spent as an SEPM and a member of the Pacific Basin Civil Rights Advisory Committee. She recently traveled to Indianapolis to attend the National Civil Right Committee meeting held in conjunction with NOPBNRCSE. Pamela, is serving a three year term on the national committee.

East Hawaii Soil & Water Conservation Districts 2006 Outstanding Cooperators of the Year

By Buddy Perry, Hilo

On March 30, 2007 the Annual Outstanding Cooperator of the Year Awards dinner was held at Hilo Hawaiian Hotel. The 2006 Outstanding farmers and ranchers from the Hamakua, Waiakea, Puna, and Ka'u Soil & Water Conservation Districts were awarded for their conservation and land stewardship practices. In November of 2006, each of the four SWCD boards conducted visits to several farms and/or ranches to determine the quality of conservation practices implemented to conserve valuable natural resources without veering away from the scope of the cooperator's production objectives. Congratulations to all the winners!



Les Takayama (Chair), Patrick McGrath & Wife Kristin McGrath.

The Waiakea SWCD chose **Patrick McGrath** as their 2006 Outstanding Cooperator. He has been a cooperator since 1987 on varying leased properties mainly growing foliage plants. Pat has installed a highly efficient irrigation system in several greenhouses on his 10 acre Raphis Palm nursery which has increased water savings. He has also kept in compliance with his DLNR lease provisions by cooperating with the Waiakea SWCD on his plan in the Panaewa Farm Lots. He is also the owner of Hawaii Foliage Exports, Inc.



Robbie Hind, Brenda Iokepa-Moses (Chair), and Francis Hind.

The Ka'u SWCD chose **Daleico Ranch** as their 2006 Outstanding Cooperator for their ongoing efforts in removing and controlling noxious weeds and planting forage grasses. Daleico Ranch currently manages about 9000 acres of ranchland mainly in the South Point area. The Hind Family have been cooperators with the Ka'u SWCD for nearly 50 years and Robbie Hind states that without the partnership with the Ka'u SWCD and NRCS it would have been very difficult to accomplish what they have done thus far.



Bob Sporleder, Josephine DeLuz, David DeLuz Sr., Lesley Hill (Chair).

Kukaiau Ranch is located in the Umikoa area and was established in 1885. In 2003, David DeLuz Sr. and his wife Josephine became the sole owners of the 10,200 acre ranch. In 2004 Robert Sporleder joined in as the ranch manger and the three formulated a plan to rebuild the ranch and become one of the largest producers of Premium Grass Finished Beef in the nation. So far, over 20 miles of cross fencing was installed to improve forage quality and manage noxious weeds. A rain catchment storage facility and over 5 miles of pipeline was installed to distribute water to troughs located in each paddock.



Spencer Nagata, Leley Hill (Chair), Roddy Nagata, and Loren Mochida.

The Hamakua SWCD has chosen two Outstanding Cooperators for 2006. **Kaala Ranch** is located in the upper O'okala area and covers 624 acres. The main objective of the ranch was to convert a previous continuous grazing system to a rotational grazing system by installing cross-fencing, removing noxious species and establishing a Kikuyu/Pangola grass mixture. Over 200 acres of brush management was accomplished by chemical control and hand clearing. No heavy equipment was used. The hard working men that made this all happen is Ernest Pung, Loren Mochida, Roddy Nagata, and Spencer Nagata.



Loren Mochida (Chair), Wayne Miranda, and Harrison Vidinha (NRCS).

The Puna SWCD chose **Wayne Miranda** as their 2006 Outstanding Cooperator. He has been working with the Puna SWCD and NRCS since 1994. Throughout the past 12 years Wayne has tirelessly converted fallow cane land into a highly productive cow calf operation by implementing practices such as noxious weed control, forage improvements, cross fencing, livestock pipelines and troughs. His ranch is located in the Kulani area.

Bernard Watson Treated Guests to Field Day

By Jocelyn Bamba, Guam

A well-known farmer in northern Guam, Bernard Watson, conducted his first "No Till" Farm Demonstration on January 25. This is one of two Farm Demonstrations he will host in 2007. This Farm Demonstration was funded in part through the USDA Conservation Security Program (CSP). This program provides enhancement payments to farmers who have already adopted conservation practices on their farm.

Approximately 50 farmers and 15 local and federal government representatives attended the Farm Demonstration on January 25. Mr. Watson gave an outstanding presentation when he highlighted several fields where he is implementing conservation practices. The practices include residue management, no till, direct seeding and mulching. The participants were



very impressed with Watson's farm operations. They were pleased to enter the gates to tour his fields to see the high-yields of fruit trees and vegetables.

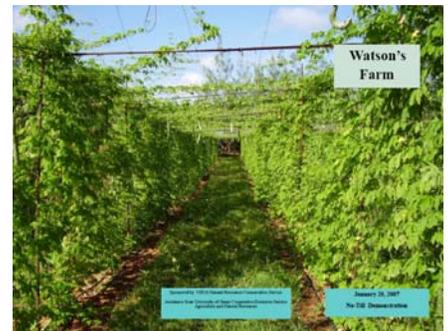
With the assistance of Jesse Bamba, University of Guam Agricultural Extension Agent, Mr. Watson wrote and printed a brochure for this Farm Demonstration. The brochure included a graph which highlighted how these conservation practices improved the pH and organic matter of his soils over years two years. Mr. Bamba explained how other farmers can get the same improvements in soil pH and organic matter if they adopt the conservation practices Mr. Watson has used on his farm. After using these conservation practices for only five years, the soils on Watson's farm are now darker in color, and produce more tomatoes and other crops.

Oahu RC&D Receives \$40,000 from Mayor



(L-R) Barbara Marshall (City Council Chairperson), Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann, John McHugh (West Oahu Director), and Dean Okimoto (Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation President).

Brochure Image:



Kagman Watershed Project Completes Another Phase

By Tim Brasuell, Saipan

On February 27, 2007 a final inspection and turnover event was held on Saipan to formally mark the completion of construction of the Water Control Structure and Box Culverts and to initiate the Operation and Maintenance period for this phase. Present were: Isidoro (Sid) Cabrera, Chairman, Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District (S&NI SWCD) and Ms. Diane Gabaldon and Mr. Jason Ada, also of the S&NI SWCD. NRCS was represented by Tim Brasuell, CNMI Engineer, and Bobby Vandivort, Construction Inspector. The Contractor's Representative, Mr. Bob Bracken, Vice President, Tano Group Inc. was also present to turn over the gate padlocks and keys.

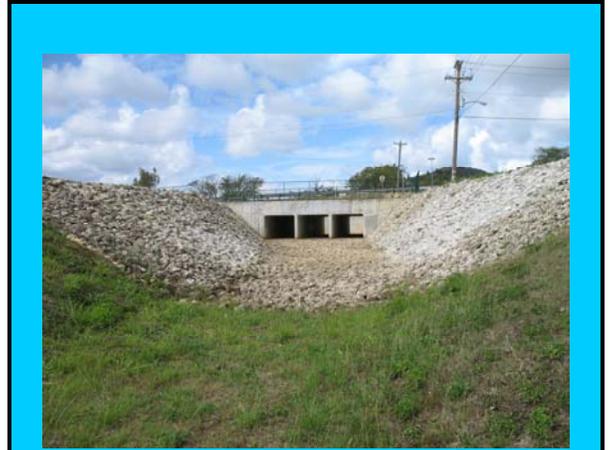
This project consists of several large multi-cell reinforced concrete box culverts, reinforced concrete rectangular flood control channels, grouted rock riprap channels, grassed waterways and safety features such as fencing, guardrails, and a catwalk railing. The centerpiece of the project is a large reinforced concrete rectangular water control structure with weir wall and manually operated stainless steel slide gate. The Water Control Structure's function is to control collected runoff from the flood control channels and to divert the water to either a previously constructed grassed waterway with four grouted rock grade stabilization structures or to a future reservoir site where the water can be stored for agricultural water supply for the Kagman Commercial Farmplot area. This project was federally contracted at \$1.05 Million with contract administration assistance from Keith Harada, Contracting Officer, NRCS, Honolulu. The NRCS Saipan Field Office was

responsible for the Quality Assurance Inspections and were performed by Martin Naputi and Bobby Vandivort, Construction Inspectors, with assistance from Tim Brasuell, Contracting Officer Representative/Project Engineer and Jeffrey Wheaton and Sherman White, Guam, as alternates. The Design Regional Technical Team (DRTT), NRCS California, provided invaluable detailed design assistance.

This phase of construction is a significant part of the works of improvement identified in the Final Watershed Plan – Environmental Impact Statement prepared by the NRCS Planning Staff in Honolulu, HI as part of the PL-566 Small Watershed Program. The purpose of the overall Kagman Watershed Project is to alleviate seasonal flooding on farmlands and to provide a reliable water supply to commercial agriculture. Several other phases have already been completed including Wetland Mitigation, Irrigation System & Wells, 100,000 Gallon Irrigation Regulating Reservoir and Waterway D & Sediment Basin 2.

Many unanticipated obstacles had to be overcome during the construction and administration of the project, but perseverance and an over-riding commitment to complete this critical flood control component and protect the natural resource base was demonstrated by our local conservation partners and NRCS staff from the PIA-West and PIA-East.

The S&NI SWCD Chairman, Isidoro Cabrera emphasized that the project will help farmers reduce crop damage, especially during the rainy season from July to November and will also benefit Kagman residents who suffer from flooding during heavy rains.



Kagman Opens Doors for Wetland Center

By Bart Lawrence, Guam

The federally funded learning center held its ribbon cutting ceremony at the site in Chacha Road, Kagman on January 30, 2007.

Marianas Resource Conservation and Development Council vice-president Ike Cabrera, who presided over the ceremony, said the center was built to help schoolchildren with their research on wetlands and inform the public about the role that wetlands play in the environment.

The project was in collaboration with the Coastal Resources Management Office and the Department



Youth using new signs at Kagman Education Island.

of Lands and Natural Resources. It was funded through the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“Wetlands are important for many reasons. They provide flood protection by slowing and holding stormwater runoff, allowing the water to slowly infiltrate into the ground, where it is naturally filtered by the silt and sand. This process cleanses the water and replenishes the aquifers from which many of us get our water,” USDA RC&D coordinator Ken Kramer said.

2nd Annual Pow Wow Held in Hilo

Article and Photo by Steve Skipper, Big Island RC&D

The Memorial Day weekend provided a glorious clear blue sky for all 3 days of the 2nd Annual Hilo Intertribal Powwow. Opening ceremonies included a cultural exchange and welcoming chants and ceremonies between Native Hawaiian hosts and visiting tribal members.

For a short time Hilo’s Wailoa Park was transformed, into a Native American village as teepees were erected and the sound of tribal song and dance and smell of sweet grass smoke filled the clear Hawaiian air.

Practitioners, dancers, drummers, tribal elders and crafts people attended from mainland tribal organizations and many local Native Americans participated, as well from on and off the Big Island.



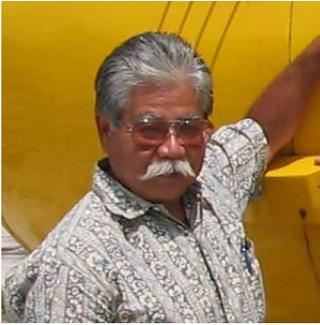
Fine beadwork, brilliant color and traditional regalia draped tribal dancers and participants at the 2nd Annual Hilo Intertribal Powwow.

The Big Island RC&D Council sponsored event was also a time for the coming together of Native Hawaiian and Native American cultures. Ceremonies honoring the old ways and cultural traditions of both groups were jointly conducted.

Tribal elders, Native American Youth groups and were all present for the final Honoring Ceremony performed by Master of Ceremonies and Head Woman, Oliver and Anne Shouting.

This solemn and rarely performed Sundance Song was directed at the sponsors and supporters of the event and was followed by a final procession around the dancing arena. This moving song and ceremony ended what can only be described as a truly magical three day celebration of Native American Culture.

“It must be said that the 2nd Annual Hilo Intertribal Powwow was a grand celebration of Native American culture, dance, and art that will be long remembered by all those who attended!”



Larry Shinshiro

Recognizing someone like Larry Shinshiro, who has truly devoted his life to public service, is always a wonderful opportunity for each of us in NRCS to gain a finer appreciation for one of our fellow co-workers and friends.

Beginning with NRCS as a GS-3 Student Trainee Soil Conservationist in the Hilo, Hawaii Field Office, Larry went on to provide exceptional assistance at the Wailuku Field Office, the Hoolehua Plant Materials Center, the Kamuela Field Office, the Papaaloa Field Office, and the Honolulu Field Office.

Although he served a total of four years in the Army and Army National Guard, the only other time he left the agency was to go back to college to earn his Master's Degree in Agronomy and Soil Science.

From 1995 until April 2007, when he retired, Larry provided quality leadership in the agronomic discipline while serving as the first and only NRCS State Agronomist in Hawaii. After 36 years of committed, excellent and valuable service he retired on April 30, of this year.

Sadly, Larry passed away in May, but he will long be remembered. His outstanding public service to the agency and the government of the United States will be his legacy that will live on in the hearts and minds of all those who knew him.

In Loving Memory



Sharon Souza

She began working with SCS/NRCS in July 1985 and continued till her disability retirement on June 11, 2005. She worked first as Secretary and then as Administrative Assistant with Tri-Isle RC&D. Prior to that her federal service began as a medical clerk with Tripler Hospital in 1981.

Sharon's dedication to the work of the Council and NRCS was well known and admired. From my previous email about Sharon's passing I received responses from many of you on how much you appreciated knowing Sharon and working with her.

Here are a few touching words that were expressed:
 "Sharon was such a conscientious, caring, dedicated person. Still remember her at the Bon dances too."
 "Sorry to hear about Sharon.....she was a good friend."
 "Sharon was a class act."
 "She was very sweet, kind hearted and hard working. I always looked forward to seeing and talking with her when I'd visit the office. She was very valuable to RC&D and contributed a lot to the betterment of Maui county."
 "She sure did give it her all, what a trooper. Sharon taught me so much about Rural Development and the Tri-Council, she was totally dedicated to the cause. We were fortunate to have had her. I will always remember her for the caring person that she was."

As you know, Sharon was a special person. She really epitomized the "aloha spirit."

Incoming Personnel:

Brie Darr, Resource Conservationist, Pohnpei FO
 Chad Kircir, District Conservationist, Aiea FO
 Sharon Sawdey, Civil Engineer, PIA State Office
 Brent Schumacher, Civil Engineer, West Area Office
 Joe Takai, Soil Conservationist, Guam FO

Outgoing Personnel:

Nancy Baumann, Biological Technician, Plant Materials Center
 Jennifer Coleson, Soil Conservationist, Guam FO
 Robin DeMeo, District Conservationist, Palau FO
 Jessie Dudoit, Biological Science Aide, Hoolehua PMC
 Jed Johnson, Resource Conservationist, Pohnpei
 Robin Kelley, State Administrative Officer, PIA State Office
 Carl Rossetti, Engineering Draftsman, PIA State Office
 Chris Smith, Asst. Director for Soil Science, PIA State Office
 Doug Toews, State Conservation Engineer, PIA State Office



NRCS Recognized by Federal Exec Board

On May 31, the Honolulu Federal Executive Board recognized NRCS as one of 12 agencies for being the Federal Employer of Choice. Director Larry Yamamoto received the award on behalf of NRCS for our outstanding service to put conservation on the ground and helping people help the land.

Karl Mikasa, Management Assistant in the State Office (pictured to the left) was recognized as one of 26 Employees of the Year for his outstanding service to the Pacific Islands Area with Information Systems Security, Departmental Computer Center Access, Network/Server Administration, maintaining the website, and assisting with computer tech support. Congrats!

United States Department of Agriculture

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2006 Plant Materials Meritorious Service Award



Bob Joy is recognized nationally for making significant contributions during his continued career in SCS/NRCS for the

last 39 years, 35 years of which he was Plant Materials Specialist at the Hoolehua Plant Materials Center on Molokai, Hawaii. He was instrumental in the establishment and transfer of the Plant Materials Center on Molokai from the island of Maui in 1972.

Bob is also recognized for his dedicated professionalism in providing cutting edge plant technology assistance for not only Hawaii but for the entire NRCS service

area of the Pacific Islands Area, which includes, Guam, American Samoa, Republic of Palau, Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

He is a true practitioner of the "customer service" concept for both internal as well as external clientele, and is widely known and respected for his technical expertise and advice. His dedication and professionalism to the Plant Materials Program truly exemplifies the spirit of the NRCS excellence.

Congratulations Bob!